

AUTHOR	<p><i>Svetlana A. Tatunts</i> – Professor at the Chair of Regional Issues of World Politics, School of World Politics, Lomonosov Moscow State University (e-mail: fr-pr-st@yandex.ru);</p> <p><i>Anastasiya M. Ponamareva</i> – Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences; Associate Professor at the Chair of Regional Issues of World Politics, School of World Politics, Lomonosov Moscow State University (e-mail: amp1982@mail.ru).</p>
TITLE	<p>ENERGY SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION</p>
SUMMARY	<p>Since gaining independence the Republic of Armenia has remained one of the most loyal allies of Russia in the post-Soviet space. However, by now bilateral relations have accumulated certain conflict potential, which manifested itself during the mass demonstrations across Armenia in 2015 provoked by the local authorities' attempt to raise electricity prices. In this context analysis of the Russian-Armenian energy dialogue and its impact on bilateral relations is of particular relevance. The present paper examines challenges and prospects for energy security of the Republic of Armenia in general and with regard to its relations with the Russian Federation in particular through the prism of a wide range of Russian and Western scholarly works on energy independence and energy diplomacy. The paper provides a detailed overview of the current state of the Republic of Armenia's energy sector and energy consumption. Special attention is paid to the role of the Armenian nuclear power plant in providing national energy security as well as political controversies on its further safe operation between Russia and Armenia on the one hand and the European Union – on the other. The authors examine an internal political divide in the Republic of Armenia over the issues of energy dependence on Russia and operations of Russian state-owned monopolies, which dominate Armenian energy sector, and the possibilities for interference by regional and extra-regional actors, particularly, the United States and the European Union. The authors conclude that under present conditions Armenia's energy security is strengthened, paradoxically, by the country's energy dependence on Russia. However, in order to preserve and promote bilateral relations the Russian Federation should be more flexible and harness the potential of its public diplomacy.</p>
KEYWORDS	<p>Republic of Armenia, Russian-Armenian relations, energy security, energy independence, energy diplomacy, public diplomacy, Eurasian Economic Union.</p>