

# President of the Russian Federation in the national security system

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**Abstract.** The article examines the role of the President of the Russian Federation in the national security system. The author analyzed the current legislation, determined the system for ensuring national security; analyzed the powers of the President in the field of ensuring national security; to propose ways of solving possible problems of national security. It is concluded that an effective system of “checks and balances” in the constitutional model of the separation of powers largely determines the internal stability in the state. Attention is drawn to the fact that the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation may lead to an increase in presidential power in the country and a shift in the levers in the system of checks and balances towards the head of state, when, at the moment, his influence on the branches of state power is great.

**Keywords:** head of state, economic security, strategy, foreign and domestic policy, extremism, national priorities, environmental security

## 1 Introduction

The research area concerns the activities of the President of the Russian Federation in the system of ensuring national security. In recent decades, the topic of ensuring the national security of the state has become increasingly relevant against the background of the external and internal political situation, the level of socio-economic development of the country.

The purpose of the study is to address the issue of expanding the status of the head of state in the sphere of national security. In particular, the relationship of the head of state with other state authorities within the framework of the established and operating system of separation of powers, determining the place and role of the head of state in the system of ensuring national security, identifying the existing patterns in this area, as well as determining ways to improve the institution of presidency in modern Russia in comparative ratio with foreign countries.

The purpose of the study is due to the formulation and solution of certain tasks, namely:

- Define the system for ensuring national security;
- Analyze the roles and powers of the President in ensuring national security;
- To suggest ways of solving possible problems of national security;

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- address the need to expand the status of the head of state in the sphere of national security.

The fundamental documents in the field of ensuring the national security of Russia are: the Constitution of the Russian Federation; Federal Law of December 28, 2010 N 390-FZ “On Security”; Federal Law of June 28, 2014 N 172-FZ “On Strategic Planning in the Russian Federation” and other federal laws; Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of December 31, 2015 N 683 “On the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation” and other strategic planning documents approved by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation, such as the Military Doctrine, the Doctrine of Information Security, and so on. It should be noted the ambiguity and legislative ambiguity of the concept of “security”, which is the starting point for the theory of national security and the definition of the place and role of the head of state in its maintenance. The adoption of a federal law regulating the status of the President of the Russian Federation will make it possible to concretize the powers of the head of state and his interaction with other authorities, and will solve many problems related not only to the implementation of the functions of the President of the Russian Federation. However, this is just a stage on the way to improving the legal regulation of the status of the President of the Russian Federation. In the future, it makes sense to consider the possibility of amending the Constitution of the Russian Federation, some laws and regulations governing the status of the President of the Russian Federation.

The empirical and theoretical foundations of the research are the scientific works of scientists who specialize in studying the legal status of the head of state.

The methodological basis of the research is the general scientific (general philosophical) method of cognition of social phenomena, private scientific methods such as the logical method, the method of analysis and synthesis, scientific classification, formal legal and comparative legal methods.

The conclusions and proposals made by the author as a result of the research of scientific material can be used in the theory of constitutional law for further research of the legal regulation of the institution of the head of state, while improving the regulatory framework affecting the functioning of the institution of the president, and also implemented in the educational process in disciplines – constitutional law and presidential power in the Russian Federation.

## **2 Materials and methods**

The methodological basis of the research is the general scientific (general philosophical) method of cognition of social phenomena, private scientific methods such as the logical method, the method of analysis and synthesis, scientific classification, formal legal and comparative legal methods.

Let us dwell in more detail on each research method.

The general scientific (general philosophical) method of cognizing social phenomena was used in the study of the ambiguity and legislative ambiguity of the concept of “security”. It was proved that national security is a multifaceted concept, which includes the defense of the country and all types of security provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the legislation of the Russian Federation, first of all, state, public, informational, environmental, economic, transport, energy security, and personal security. In each of the components, the President exercises his powers. An aspect on the term strategic security has been made.

Private scientific research methods, in particular, the logical method, the method of analysis and synthesis, were applied in determining the system for ensuring national security. This method made it possible to identify and highlight threats to national security, such as the erosion of traditional Russian spiritual and moral values and the weakening of the unity of the multinational people of the Russian Federation through external cultural and information expansion (including the dissemination of low-quality products of mass culture), propaganda of permissiveness and violence, racial, national and religious intolerance, as well as a decrease in the role of the Russian language in the world, the quality of its teaching in Russia and abroad, attempts to falsify Russian and world history, illegal encroachments on cultural objects.

Using the method of scientific classification, formal legal and comparative legal methods, the legislative and scientific basis of the study was determined, a comparative study of the status of the head of state, the powers of the head of state in the field of national security was carried out, and strategic national priorities were determined. Among the priorities are: the defense of the country; state and public safety; improving the quality of life of Russian citizens; the economic growth; science, technology and education; healthcare; culture; ecology of living systems and rational use of natural resources; strategic stability and equal strategic partnership [1]. In particular, the national interests of Russia in the environmental sphere are in the preservation and improvement of the environment. The threat of a deterioration of the ecological situation in the country and the depletion of its natural resources is in direct proportion to the state of the economy and the readiness of society to realize the global nature and importance of these problems [2].

In this regard, referring to the question of the methodology of this study, it should be borne in mind that when considering the problem of global climate change from the standpoint of ensuring national security, it seems appropriate to focus on the analysis of the political component of this phenomenon, issues of strategic goal-setting that underlie practical security policy. At the same time, the greatest interest in terms of studying the influence of the factor of global climate change on official approaches to ensuring national security is the experience of the United States. Of course, the international dimension of the policy related to the problems of global climate change is extremely important. Special attention should be paid to the development of comprehensive and scientifically based initiatives, with which the Russian Federation could act in the international arena, including within the framework of the UN, based on the fact that climatic changes pose a new common threat to human civilization, which, like other modern transnational challenges, requires collective concerted action [3].

### 3 Results

The research results show the following.

**Table 1.** Roles of the President in ensuring national security.

Basic	Executive and administrative	Lawmaking
head of state	direct management of the activities of federal executive bodies in charge of defense, security, internal affairs, justice, foreign affairs, prevention of emergencies and elimination of the consequences of natural disasters, the activities of the National Guard troops of the Russian	issues decrees by means of which martial law and a state of emergency are introduced into the territory of the country or part of it, approves conceptual and doctrinal strategic planning documents

Basic	Executive and administrative	Lawmaking
	Federation and appoints the heads and deputy heads of these bodies	
guarantor of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, human and civil rights and freedoms	establishment of the structure of federal executive bodies	approves regulations on federal executive bodies in the field of ensuring national security
taking measures to protect the sovereignty of the Russian Federation, its independence and state integrity	distribution of functions between federal executive bodies	submits for consideration by the State Duma of the Russian Federation draft laws on ensuring national security
ensuring the coordinated functioning and interaction of public authorities	formation and management of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, the State Council, the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation	addresses annual messages to the Parliament of the Russian Federation on the situation in the country, the main directions of domestic and foreign policy of the state
	appointment and dismissal of the high command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation	
	management of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation	
	introduces martial law and a state of emergency in the country or on its part	
	forms commissions under the Government of Russia in order to implement state policy on certain issues, including for the implementation of state policy in the field of ensuring national security)	

Thus, it can be concluded that executive-administrative roles prevail in the general component of roles.

The national security strategy is based on the inextricable relationship and interdependence of the national security of the Russian Federation and the socio-economic development of the country [4].

**Table 2.** List of powers of the head of state to ensure national security.

Federal law “on security”	Presidential decree “on the national security strategy”
Approval of the national security strategy of the Russian Federation, other conceptual and doctrinal documents in the field of security	Defense of the country
Strengthening the country’s defense, ensuring the inviolability of the constitutional system, sovereignty, independence, state and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation	State and public safety
Strengthening national harmony, political and social stability, developing democratic institutions, improving the mechanisms of interaction between the state and civil society	Improving the quality of life of Russian citizens

<b>Federal law “on security”</b>	<b>Presidential decree “on the national security strategy”</b>
Improving the quality of life, strengthening the health of the population, ensuring the stable demographic development of the country	The economic growth
Preservation and development of culture, traditional russian spiritual and moral values	Science, technology, education
Increasing the competitiveness of the national economy	Health care
Consolidation of the status of one of the leading world powers for the russian federation, the activities of which are aimed at maintaining strategic stability and mutually beneficial partnerships in a polycentric world	The culture
Taking measures to protect citizens from criminal and other illegal actions, to counter terrorism and extremism	Ecology of living systems and rational nature management
The formation of bodies in order to ensure national security, the establishment of their competence, the approval of the most important conceptual and doctrinal documents of strategic planning in the field of national security and determination of the direction of the system’s work to achieve the set objectives	Strategic stability and equal strategic partnership

Thus, the President of the Russian Federation has broad powers in the field of ensuring national security. This is explained by the status of the head of state, the guarantor of the Constitution, the rights and freedoms of citizens, the coordinator of the branches of state power. The national security system, as seen from the above, includes many actors in the public sector. This is due to the fact that national security permeates most spheres of public life. An effective system of “checks and balances” in the constitutional model of the separation of powers largely determines the internal stability in the state.

It can be concluded that the President of the Russian Federation occupies a central position in the alignment of strategic forces and plays a key role in the formation of an effective system for ensuring national security.

The concept of “strategic stability” was formulated as a legal norm in June 1990 in the Joint Statement of Russia and the United States and has never been edited or applied again [5].

The national security strategy has formed national priorities, but there is still no mechanism for their implementation, there are only tools for monitoring and assessing the state of national security for each priority, which do not have a direct impact on the budget process and government programs [6].

The very fact of the formation of the national project “Ecology” testifies to the fact that for the first time in the modern history of Russia an attempt has been made to balance the solution of socio-economic and environmental problems, which corresponds to the principles and goals of sustainable development, which were adopted by the world community at the United Nations Summit in September 2015 for the period 2016–2030 [7].

Of course, global climate changes must be taken into account when forming the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation.

Additional tasks await the armed forces in the context of humanitarian operations, since global climate change can lead to natural disasters, mass migration of people from affected areas, outbreaks of infectious diseases, and require elimination of the consequences of weather emergencies. Such operations can be very large-scale, and it is necessary to prepare personnel for them in advance.

## 4 Discussion

Most state scholars have a negative attitude to the unification of the powers of the head of state and the actual head of the highest executive body – the Government of the Russian Federation. However, it remains obvious that in the modern world, under existing conditions, the principle of separation of powers is not implemented in a “pure” form, despite its proclamation as a principle of the constitutional system of all democratic states. In addition, our country, as history shows, is traditionally inclined towards autocracy, which cannot but affect the mechanism of the current state power even now.

Grechenkova K.A. believes that at this stage, to eliminate the duplication of executive powers of the Government and the President, it would be advisable to combine them in a single act, for example, in the Federal Law “On the Status of the President of the Russian Federation”, which would emphasize the controlling and coordinating role of the head of state in relation to the executive authorities [8]. At the moment, the President of the Russian Federation does not influence the termination of judicial powers, which is a guarantee of their independence from the head of state in this matter. However, the President of the Russian Federation, through the exercise of the right to legislative initiative and the implementation of legislative functions, can exert an organizational, structural and functional impact on the judicial system. For example, after the entry into force of the Law on the amendment to the Constitution of the Russian Federation of March 14, 2020, the President will be able to significantly influence the judicial system. The head of state, by his representation to the Federation Council, will be able to influence the termination of the powers of judges, which can lead to a violation of the principle of independence of judges and the independence of the judiciary, to an increase in the dependence of the judiciary on the head of state, and hence to a shift in the system of checks and balances.

Attention should be paid to the opinion of individual authors that the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation may lead to an increase in presidential power in the country and a shift in the levers in the system of checks and balances towards the head of state, when and at the moment his influence on the branches of state power is great. It is difficult to overestimate the significance of the decrees of the head of state, which are issued in the development of existing laws. The determination of the status of the President of the Russian Federation allows us to conclude that the head of state occupies a special place in the system of government bodies. However, this situation does not allow interpreting the power of the President of Russia as rising above all branches of government [9].

In addition, “in order to exercise his powers, the President of the Russian Federation is endowed with a wider arsenal of presidential acts, the legal nature of which has not been determined” [10].

A.V. Korotaeva show that hybrid regimes in general are more sensitive to other types of destabilization, such as riots, coups, etc.; for intermediate regimes as a whole, a statistically significant higher level of socio-political instability turns out to be statistically significant than for consolidated democracies and successive autocracies, an inverted U-shaped relationship can be traced between the level of socio-political destabilization and the type of political regime. In general, the most stable types of regimes are successive autocracies and consolidated democracies [11].

In the U.S., the arrival of a new presidential administration could lead to significant changes in politics. Major party candidates run on platforms that promise policy change. Candidates often back up their arguments with promises of governing through teams that will take power away from unelected bureaucrats. Almost all candidates promise to make

government more efficient, to cut spending. The actions that follow these promises can have a predictable effect on federal employees' choices to stay or quit [12].

According to the author S. A. Bokeriya, the activities of the UN, the CSTO and the SCO are underestimated. These organizations emerged in the wake of the emergence of a pool of regional associations of countries that became involved in security and peacekeeping activities. Both associations have a similar composition of member states, were created after the collapse of the USSR, are observers at the UN and are engaged in security as one of the key areas of activity, having similar functions. The CSTO and SCO in the post-Soviet space did not allow new conflicts to erupt, that is, they play the role of stabilizers of the situation within the borders of their region and member states [13].

In recent decades, it is difficult to find a concept more widely used (and abused) in discussions of politico-military issues than "strategic stability. Among the many shades of its meaning, two extremes can be distinguished: a broad interpretation and a narrow one. The first actually equates the term with the concept of "international security. The narrow interpretation refers to the state of military-strategic relations of states and was born during the evolution of the nuclear balance and negotiations between the USSR and the United States. Although the concept is often used for propaganda purposes, it still has a specific agreed meaning and has served as the basis for strategic arms reduction treaties [14].

Russia's current strategic nuclear forces are 530 carriers and about 2,000 nuclear warheads of ballistic missiles and cruise missiles of heavy bombers. The total destructive power is about 700 megatons [15].

National security was one of the main topics of the online meeting between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden on December 7, 2021. The U.S. leader noted his concern about Russian troop movements near Ukrainian borders and informed Putin of "large-scale sanctions" in case of an escalation. The Russian president, on the other hand, spoke out about NATO moving eastward. In addition, Putin drew Biden's attention to the actions taken by the Ukrainian authorities with regard to the Russian language in the country. As a result, the two sides agreed to continue contacts on the situation in Ukraine [16].

## 5 Conclusion

The research results are as follows:

A scientific generalization of the theoretical and practical material of the content of the status of the President of the Russian Federation is carried out. In the context of other government bodies within the framework of the established and operating system of separation of powers, the place and role of the head of state in the system of ensuring national security was determined, the existing patterns in this area were identified, and ways were identified to improve the institution of presidency in modern Russia in a comparative relation with foreign countries.

It has been proven that the President of the Russian Federation occupies a central position in the alignment of strategic forces and plays a key role in the formation of an effective system for ensuring national security. In the general component of the roles of the head of state, executive and administrative roles prevail.

Articles 7, 13 and 14 of the Federal Law "On Security" were amended in 2020 to clarify the tasks and functions of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, which is headed by the President of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation. For example, Article 7 was supplemented with a provision stating that decisions of interstate bodies adopted on the basis of provisions of international treaties of

the Russian Federation in their interpretation contradicting the Constitution of the Russian Federation shall not be executed in the Russian Federation.

Amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation resulted in the strengthening of presidential power in the country and a shift of levers in the system of checks and balances towards the head of state, when even at that time his influence on the branches of state power was great.

It was revealed that the current National Security Strategy has formed national priorities, but there is still no mechanism for their implementation, there are only tools for monitoring and evaluating the state of national security for each priority, which have no direct impact on the budget process and state programs.

The concept of “strategic stability” is absent in the legislation. It is necessary to include this notion in development strategies and doctrines.

The study is promising from the point of view of further improvement of the national security system, taking into account new challenges, including in the system of environmental security. The Russian Federation, as the strongest state, should be encouraged to participate in all activities that determine the development of world politics, that is, to be a full member of a polycentric world.

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