

УДК 9 + 39 + 327

Емесобум Ч. –гр. ІСІ-22

*Тернопільський національний технічний університет імені Івана Пулюя*

## **ЕТНІЧНИЙ ЛОБІЗМ У МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИНАХ**

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## **ETHNIC LOBBYING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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Ключові слова: етнічний лобізм

Keywords: ethnic lobbying

Ethnic identity groups often attempt to advance the interests of their ethnic kin through the formation of ethnic interest groups or, as they are commonly known, ethnic lobbies. But unlike, for example, business or environmental interest groups, which are concerned with profits and social values, respectively, ethnic interest groups are concerned with the well-being of members of the self-defined ethnic group, wherever they reside. Consequently, one can define ethnic lobbies as political organizations established along cultural, ethnic, religious, or racial lines that seek to directly and indirectly influence of host countries foreign policy in support of their homeland and/or ethnics in abroad.

Ethnic politics and lobbies began with the large waves of nineteenth-century immigration. Irish Americans were one of the more effective ethnic lobbies. But ethnic lobbying became much stronger in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Among some of the best-known ethnic lobbies are the Polish-American Congress, the Cuban-American National Foundation, TransAfrica, the National Association of Arab-Americans, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Armenian Assembly of America, and the American Hellenic Institute Public Affairs Committee. In terms of strengthening international interactions that ethnic lobbies significantly influence the formation and implementation of foreign policy and diplomacy in their countries of residence, shaping the status and development of interstate relations and the dynamics of international cooperation. Ethnic groups who live in the US certainly have a stronger influence on a situation in international relations.

The pattern of foreign aid (ODA) by many donor countries has puzzled economists for a long time. While the least developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the economic conditions of a majority of the population is desperate, receive rather small amounts of aid, the relatively prosperous developing countries receive the lion's share of development assistance. Each ethnic group in the donor country lobbies the government to allocate more aid to its country of origin, and the government accepts political contributions from lobby groups. Initial per-capita income of the recipients and those of the ethnic groups are shown to be important determinants of the solution of the political equilibrium.

In the conditions of intensification of migration processes, reinforcement of consolidation of immigrant groups, the expansion of democracy and multiculturalism policies, the ethnic lobbyism has become one of the most significant power leverage both in the economy and policy of many countries. The practice of using the political potential of Ethnic groups for the development of their motherland and its international relations has increased.