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### **The functional characteristics of Westphalian international order in the theory of international relations**

This article explores the features and different elements of Westphalian international order in the contemporary scientific literature. It represents a systematic value of the concept of order within the theory of international relations. The modern international order and the modern system of international relations take their origin from 1648, when the Treaty of Westphalia was signed. It is concluded, that the Westphalian order had marked the beginning of «ordered» foreign relations, based on such realistic principles, as a state sovereignty and national interests. The period of peace in Europe was managed and preserved for so long because of the concept of balance of power. This principle emerged because the independent European states feared the emergence of any predominant state (hegemon) among them. Over the

years, the Westphalian model became universally accepted, and widely respected. But, with time, came changes to the society, and, with them, came critique of the system.

**Keywords:** international order, international system, the balance of powers, «nation–state», state sovereignty, multipolarity.

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