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Modern increase of international tension and potential for conflict in the former USSR are updated by the necessity of research the conceptual-terminological designation of the region. Definitions, context of use, interpretations and variations of the concept «post-Soviet space» have been clarified in this article. Approaches of researchers have been offered. It is shown that the problem of concretization of the concept «post-Soviet space» and the interpretation of its definitions requires more indepth and detailed analysis on the part of expert community, the consequence of which is to become a set of generally accepted parameters that characterize a stable concept, which is generally unambiguous and devoid of ideological color definition. In the absence at present in international-political studies of unified concept that refers to the territory of the fifteen former Soviet republics, for it is possible to use the concept «post-Soviet space» and synonymous concepts «New Independent States» and «Near Abroad». However, one should understand the differences in the semantic context of these concepts: the concept «post-Soviet space» means a multi-level process of disintegration in the past of a single state, which is ongoing; the concept «New independent States» describes the logic of today – the existence of sovereign states – former Soviet republics; the concept «Near Abroad» is a projection of the aspirations of the former imperial center towards territories that were previously under its control.

Key words: post-Soviet space, Near Abroad, New Independent States, concept, definition, interpretation, researchers.

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