

Abstracts and Keywords

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EMPIRE AGAINST NATIONALISM: GENERAL DENIKIN AND MARSHAL PILSUDSKI (ON THE PROBLEMATICS OF JAN ENGELGARD'S BOOK "THE RUSSIAN SYNDROME: THE CASE OF GENERAL DENIKIN IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT")

Abstract. *This article examines the unexpected thesis presented in Jan Engelgard's book "The Russian Syndrome: The Case of General Denikin in Historical Context", published in Warsaw in 2024. The Polish historian convincingly makes the point that in 1919 J. Piłsudski, having assumed leadership of the reborn Polish state and entering into a secret alliance with the Bolsheviks to help them stop General Denikin's advance on Moscow, was guided not by military calculations but by the "Russian syndrome" — an irrational nationalist animosity towards Russia and its people. For his part, A.I. Denikin acted on the principles of traditional supranational imperialism, yet he was not opposed to the creation of a sovereign Poland, and his conceptions of "Russianness" did not constitute an expression of ethnic nationalism. The book thoroughly debunks the myth that the White movement and its leaders planned to return to the 1914 borders and abolish the newly restored Polish independence. Furthermore, Engelgard offers a critique of Polish historiography, asserting that mainstream interpretations of Piłsudski's eastern policy remain largely captive to the same "Russian syndrome."*

Keywords: *J. Engelgard, "Russian Syndrome", General A.I. Denikin, Marshal J. Piłsudski, Polish nationalism, Russia, Poland, empire, Polish historiography, A. Nowak.*

Anton KRUTIKOV**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN THE MEMOIRS OF MINSK GOVERNOR V.A. DRUTSKOY-SOKOLINSKY. II. THE CIVIL WAR**

Abstract. *The article examines the memoirs of Prince V. A. Drutsky-Sokolinsky, who served as governor of Minsk until March 1917, covering the period from 1917 to 1920. Following his transfer to military service and a brief stint on the Soviet-German border commission, he witnessed the final days of Hetman P. P. Skoropadsky's regime in Kiev in December 1918. Later, while serving in the administration of the Armed Forces of South Russia under General A.I. Denikin, he was an eyewitness to and participant in many key events of the Russian Civil War. Drutsky-Sokolinsky left valuable reflections on the role of the Russian intelligentsia, remnants of the imperial bureaucratic elite, the nobility, and the officer corps in the downfall of the Hetman regime — a defeat that proved catastrophic for local conservative forces. In his memoirs, he emphasized the significant involvement of the former imperial bureaucracy in establishing the administrative apparatus in territories controlled by the Volunteer Army. In his view, organizing errors on both central and local levels were among the key reasons for the White Movement's defeat in Southern Russia. This article draws upon an unpublished manuscript of his memoirs from 1918-1919, as well as unique documents from the family archive provided to the author by Drutsky-Sokolinsky's descendants.*

Keywords: *V.A. Drutskoy-Sokolinsky, P.P. Skoropadsky, A.I. Denikin, Russian Revolution, Civil War, Volunteer Army, Russian emigration.*

Ekaterina LABETSKAYA**BRICS+ IN THE CONTEXT OF THE “ANCHORAGE SPIRIT” OF HYBRID WARFARE**

Abstract. *The article analyzes the geopolitically turbulent context of the renewed hybrid warfare waged by the collective West against BRICS+. Initially obscured by the “Anchorage spirit” in the foreign policy rhetoric of the 47th U.S. President, Donald J. Trump, this warfare is becoming increasingly overt, due to the current American leader's psychological tendencies. Particular focus is placed on the prospects and challenges facing the core of BRICS+ — the RIC (Russia–India–China) triangle, conceptualized in the late 1990s by Academician Yevgeny Primakov, who highlighted the promising political partnership among Russia, India and China. In exploring this topic, the author relies on the methodology of systemic analysis in international relations, the spatial approach, and the concept of hybrid warfare.*

Keywords: *BRICS, RIC, Russia, USA, China, Board of Peace, Venezuela, geopolitics, hybrid warfare, Donroe Doctrine, transnational spaces.*

Leontiy LANNIK**THE GENESIS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. I.
A CENTURY OF DIVERSE EXPLANATIONS**

Abstract. *Historiographical tradition typically proceeds from the premise that the First World War was inevitable, meticulously analyzing the causes of the fatal outcome of the July Crisis and pointing to the tendencies towards the forceful repartition of the world. In addition to multiple objective explanations established primarily within the framework of the theory of imperialism, some interpretations suggest the Great War was unavoidable due to specific circumstances and subjective factors. However, by comparing international diplomatic processes between 1911 and 1914, re-evaluating geopolitical compromises and suppressed conflicts, discarding prejudices that reflexively attribute militarism and expansionism to specific actors, we can challenge several long-held theses. Many of the foreign policy moves later framed as expansionist priorities were, in fact, viewed by European elites in a completely different balance of power, where the focus was on local or even personal conflicts rather than global rivalry. Ultimately, a systemic approach leads to a reassessment of conclusions drawn from examining various bilateral conflicts in isolation. It therefore sheds new light on the tragic outcome of the July Crisis and offers an alternative explanation for the collapse of the complex Vienna System of international security, built upon a century of compromise among the great powers.*

Keywords: *World War I, geopolitics, political priorities, German Empire, regional conflicts, infrastructure, militarization, systemic approach, July crisis 1914.*

Ekaterina NAROCHNITSKAYA**THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN FRENCH HISTORICAL MEMORY
AND MEMORIAL POLICY: THE GHOST OF VICHY
AND THE PATRIOTIC MYTHOLOGY OF THE RESISTANCE (1944–1960^s)**

Abstract. *The image of World War II in the historical memory of the French has distinct characteristics, linked primarily to the dual nature of France's role in this global conflict, but also to a number of other factors. The trauma of capitulation and collaboration, the internal divide between the Vichy regime and the Resistance, the complex history of Vichyism, and major shifts in the political context of the second half of the 20th century have condemned France to agonizing conflicts of memory and striking metamorphoses in the symbolic representation of the wartime period of its national history. The article puts a particular focus on the first phase of this process, which was marked by the exclusion of the topic of collaboration from public discourse and the emergence of the "Resistance myth" — a reduced and heroized version of World War II memory in its Gaullist patriotic interpretation.*

Keywords: *France, World War II, historical memory, memorial policy, Vichy regime, collaboration, Resistance, de Gaulle, Resistance myth, May 8th Commemoration.*

Elena SHTRYKOVA, Dmitry FEDOROV

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS A TRANSFORMATIVE FACTOR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: A REVIEW OF RUSSIAN AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERT PUBLICATIONS

Abstract. *This article provides an analytical review of recent expert publications on the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of international relations. In a number of countries, AI is already being actively used in foreign policy planning, crisis simulation, negotiation preparation, and other diplomatic tasks. Experts point to the dual potential of AI: while rapid, high-volume data processing opens up unprecedented opportunities, it simultaneously introduces complex geopolitical, technological, and ethical challenges. Key among them are the threats of technological neocolonialism, loss of sovereignty, and the erosion of the traditional foundations of diplomacy as an art of human relations. In this context, the need for international regulation in the field of AI becomes acute.*

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, AI, international relations, diplomacy, neocolonialism, technological sovereignty, new hierarchy.*

Petr YAKOVLEV

THE FRACTURE OF THE WORLD ORDER: GEO-ECONOMIC AND GEOPOLITICAL FACTORS

Abstract. *Since early 2026, members of the transnational establishment and the expert community have been discussing signs of a profound crisis — a geo-economic and geopolitical fracture of the international order that evolved under the dominance of neoliberal globalization. The ongoing global change was unleashed by Donald J. Trump at the start of his second term. His decisions on global trade, various demands directed at neighboring Canada and Mexico, challenges to EU members and NATO allies, as well as his coercive actions, primarily in the Western Hemisphere, have undermined the foundations of the old economic and political world order, as well as the basis of neoliberal globalization. The actions taken by the White House have caused not only deep-seated discontent but also counter-measures from a number of states, therefore, the relatively prolonged process of liberalizing international trade, economic, political and diplomatic relations is giving way to increased protectionism. This shift threatens to slow down the growth of global trade and the world economy as a whole, while exacerbating foreign policy differences.*

Keywords: *world order, Trump's policy 2.0, criticism of globalization, rise of the Global South, transatlantic partnership crisis.*

Petr YAKOVLEV

**U.S. — VENEZUELA:
THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF OPERATION ABSOLUTE RESOLVE**

Abstract. *This article examines the geopolitical context and implications of the U.S. operation codenamed Absolute Resolve. On the night of January 3, 2026, U.S. Special Operations Forces captured and extracted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. This long-planned mission was aimed not only at achieving regime change in Venezuela but also at demonstrating Washington's intent to reestablish hegemony over Latin America and the Western Hemisphere. The ideological framework for this intervention is the "Donroe Doctrine" — a contemporary interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine. The operation was condemned by numerous states, including several NATO allies, and described by the UN Secretary-General's spokesperson as a "dangerous precedent." However, a number of governments, including some in Latin America, chose to support it. All evidence indicates that the forceful implementation of this "Donroe Doctrine" marks the start of a new era in American foreign policy.*

Keywords: *USA, Trump administration 2.0, Donroe Doctrine, Venezuela, pressure policy, oil blockade, capture of President Maduro, international reaction.*