

## Abstracts and Keywords

**Anton KRUTIKOV**

### **THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA AND THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT REFORMS IN THE BALTICS IN 1917. PART 1. FEBRUARY REVOLUTION AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF NATIONAL PROCESSES IN THE BALTIC PROVINCES**

**Abstract:** *Following the February Revolution, the Russian Provisional Government initiated a series of administrative reforms aimed at granting increased autonomy to the Baltic provinces. These documents provide a more nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics at play in the Baltics, particularly highlighting the absence of clear direction and predetermined outcomes in the later establishment of nation-states in the region. The authorities in Petrograd aimed to leverage the local desire for national autonomy and the prevalent anti-German sentiment among the Baltic populations to garner support from regional national elites and counter the rising influence of leftist factions. Concurrently, regarding national self-determination, the Petrograd authorities adhered to the principle of the supremacy of the future Constituent Assembly, which led to dissatisfaction among the Estonian and Latvian national elites. Additionally, the delineation of new administrative boundaries emerged as an urgent concern. The borders of the Estland and Livonia provinces as they stood in February 1917 did not align with the ethnolinguistic distribution. This study draws upon lesser-known documents from the collection of the General Affairs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Provisional Government, preserved in the State Archives of the Russian Federation.*

**Keywords:** *Russia, Baltics, Estonia, Livonia, Provisional Government, February Revolution, First World War, national question, national policy, Resolution of March 30, 1917.*

**Anton KRUTIKOV****THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA AND THE REFORMS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE BALTIC STATES IN 1917. PART 2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY IN MAY-JUNE 1917 AND ITS RESULTS**

**Abstract:** *The Provisional Government in Petrograd aimed to address the issue of self-governance in the Baltics not primarily by extending further rights to local nationalities, but rather through a lens of revolutionary centralism, seeking to incorporate the Baltic provinces into the already existing framework of zemstvo institutions. The main challenge facing it was not the rise of regional nationalism, but the spread of Bolshevism. The Bolshevization of the Baltic territories, particularly of today's Latvia, indeed largely predetermined the disastrous fate of A. Kerensky's cabinet. With the radicalization of the Russian Revolution and the departure of the Provisional Government from the historical stage, the situation in the Baltics developed under the decisive influence of World War I and the Russian Civil War. The "anti-German" and "anti-Bolshevik" nature of the proclamations of Estonian and Latvian statehood underscored the challenging international circumstances facing the small Baltic peoples, who had previously sought only national autonomy. This article draws on little-known documents from the collection of the General Affairs Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Provisional Government, held by the State Archives of the Russian Federation.*

**Keywords:** *Russia, Baltics, Estonia, Livonia, Provisional Government, February Revolution, First World War, national question, national policy, B.B. Veselovsky Commission.*

**Ekaterina LABETSKAYA****MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, DIPLOMAT AND SCIENTIST NIKOLAY IVANOVICH ISAEV**

**Abstract.** *This article examines the life and work of Nikolay Ivanovich Isaev (1903–1969), a veteran of Soviet military intelligence. During World War II, his role was instrumental in enhancing the Soviet Union's military-economic potential in its struggle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. In the post-war period, Isaev contributed significantly to developing a scientific methodology for military analysis within the Main Directorate of the General Staff. A special focus is placed on his role in fostering expert collaboration between the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Main Intelligence Directorate, particularly in establishing a leading research program at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). The study is based on materials from the archives of the Russian Foreign Ministry, IMEMO RAS, the Isaev family, and the memoirs of his daughter, Yulia Nikolaevna Isaeva.*

**Keywords:** *military intelligence, military analytics, military-industrial complex, GRU (Russian Federation), IMEMO, Nikolay I. Isaev, China, Manchukuo, deployment of productive forces, USA, Japan.*

**Natalia TRAVKINA****WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE US DEMOCRATIC PARTY?**

**Abstract.** *The 2024 United States presidential election, which resulted in a defeat for the Democratic Party, has exacerbated its large-scale systemic crisis, a process that has been unfolding over the past three to four decades. The manifestations of this crisis permeate the entire party structure, from its leadership to its eroding electoral base. The party's identity dilemma has sharply worsened, since it effectively became an instrument for preserving the neoliberal world order and consolidating power in the hands of the globalist faction of the American financial elite. Furthermore, internal contradictions and fierce infighting between moderate centrists and the radical left wing are escalating, the outcome of which will determine the Democratic Party's future political trajectory.*

**Keywords:** *2024 US presidential election, US Democratic Party, systemic crisis, American electorate, J. Biden, K. Harris.*

**Stephen WERTHEIM****INSTRUMENTAL INTERNATIONALISM: THE AMERICAN ORIGINS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1940–1943**

**Abstract.** *Why did the United States want to create the United Nations Organization, or any international political organization with universal membership? This question has received superficial historiographical attention, despite ample scrutiny of the conferences that directly established the UN in 1944 and 1945. The answer lies earlier in the war, from 1940 to 1942, when, under the pressure of fast-moving events, American officials and intellectuals decided their country must not only enter the war but also lead the world long afterwards. International political organization gained popularity — first among unofficial postwar planners in 1941 and then among State Department planners in 1942 — because it appeared to be an indispensable tool for implementing postwar US world leadership, for projecting and in no way constraining American power. US officials believed the new organization would legitimate world leadership in the eyes of the American public by symbolizing the culmination of prior internationalist efforts to end power politics, even as they based the design of the UN on a thoroughgoing critique of the League, precisely for assuming that power politics could be transcended.*

**Keywords:** *internationalism, isolationism, universal international organization, world organization, Second World War, United Nations, United States, State Department, League of Nations.*

**Petr YAKOVLEV, Nailya YAKOVLEVA**

## **SPAIN 50 YEARS AFTER THE DICTATORSHIP: FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS**

**Abstract.** *The authors examine the evolution of Spain's international relations in the post-Franco era. The death of dictator Francisco Franco on 20 November 1975 triggered a profound transformation of Madrid's foreign policy and trade relations. This shift ended the prolonged international isolation of the Francoist regime, significantly altering Spain's place and role in European and global affairs and amplifying its voice on the international stage. However, recent geopolitical and geo-economic shifts have posed significant challenges to Spanish foreign policy. The key test for the Spanish establishment and business community lies not only in adapting to these global changes but also in proactively safeguarding the country's fundamental national interests. A central problem is the crisis within the Euro-Atlantic system. Growing difficulties with partners in the European Union and the United States are prompting Madrid to diversify its political and economic ties by engaging more actively with nations of the Global South.*

**Keywords:** *Spain, end of the dictatorship, new foreign policy, trade and economic relations, international crises, Madrid facing geopolitical and geo-economic challenges.*

**Ladislav ZEMÁNEK**

## **SECURITISATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (THE CZECH CASE)**

**Abstract.** *This article examines the phenomenon of securitisation within the European Union, using the Czech Republic as a case study. It argues that the prioritisation of security concerns over democratic values and civic freedoms has expanded far beyond traditional defence policy into the spheres of economy, information, education, science, and culture. Driven by geopolitical confrontation, especially with Russia and China, the Czech government has institutionalised this trend through new legislation, surveillance mechanisms, and restrictions on academic and economic cooperation. The study concludes that comprehensive securitisation reflects a paradoxical evolution of liberal democracy towards authoritarian governance and diminished transparency.*

**Keywords:** *securitization, the European Union, European Commission recommendations, the Czech Republic, the government of P. Fiala, security, confrontation, restrictions on civil liberties, liberal democracy, authoritarian evolution.*