

## Abstracts and Keywords

**Natalia NAROCHNITSKAYA**

### **RUSSIA AND SERBIA IN A TIME OF CHANGE. III. SERBS AND RUSSIANS IN THE SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS AND GEOPOLITICAL CATAclysms OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

**Abstract.** *The analysis of the key milestones in the last century history reveals close interconnections among the aspirations and destiny of the Serbs and other Balkan peoples, European geopolitics and Russia's international role. The geopolitical developments of both the past and the present clearly prove that Serbia has little chance to avoid being drawn into the confrontation between the West and Russia. The United States in latest decades took over the old British strategy: to push Germany against Russia and to keep the Balkan peoples fragmented to prevent the emerging of homogeneous Slavic states, which, contrary Anglo-American interests, could eventually bring "Latin" Slavs into the Pax Germanica, and Orthodox — into the Pax Rossica. The national aspirations of the Serbs were subject to condemnation and containment. With the collapse of the SFRY, the Serbs were all the more condemned and doomed to fragmentation — a remarkable parallel with the fate of the historical Russian statehood and the Russian people in and after the communist experiment. The new postmodernist and technocratic concept of the future being implemented by the West leaves no prospects for continuous cultural and historical life of nations and ruins the civilizational cores of both Russian civilization and Serbian people. At present, the Serbian nation is being again drawn into a dramatic conflict with global implications, confirming the dependence of the post-Byzantine space on the position of Russia.*

**Keywords:** *Serbia and Russia, Serbian statehood, European geopolitics (early 20th century), Bosnian crisis (1908), Serbian nation, Serbian people, SFRY.*

**Ivan SAFRANCHUK**

### **THE DECLINE OF AMERICAN HEGEMONY: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM IN TRANSITION**

**Abstract.** *American opportunities for global supremacy are running out and multipolarity is becoming a reality. The world order remains in a state of transition, but the essential qualitative parameters of the ongoing transition have been changing. Leading international actors are shaping the new rules of interaction. This process cannot be easy, especially since the renewed composition of the leading powers includes actors with very different cultures and different domestic systems that they hold dear. Rivalry takes two main forms — first, competing actors try to weaken each other through indirect ways, second, they tend to be ready for controlled clashes of interests in important regions. All of this leads to constant international tension and complicates the emergence of common rules and principles. Yet, at the same time such modality of competition prevents, at least for now, even the harshest contradictions from erupting into a big war.*

**Keywords:** *world order, world system, multipolarity, global actors, modes of international competition, international rivalry, conflicts.*

**Yakov SHEMYAKIN****POSTCOLONIAL PROBLEMS OF INTER-CIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUE**

**Abstract.** *Postcolonial discourse is one of the most significant phenomena in the spiritual cosmos of contemporary humanity. The underlying basis for this is the clash of two qualitatively different processes — globalization and enhanced accentuation of the originality of specific human communities, — which has led to the “frontierization” of the semantic space of all human cultures. Ideologists and supporters of postcolonial discourse are, as a rule, in a “borderline” situation, in the middle of extremely tense contacts between different traditions. Many of them reproduce in their own way the Western exclusive discourse which has placed the Other (that is, the entire non-Western world) immeasurably lower, in the hierarchy of being, than the Faustian Civilization, and therefore has led to a “monologization of dialogue” in the West’s interaction with non-European cultures. Postcolonial critics turn this relation upside down, rejecting not only Eurocentrism but also dialogue with Western tradition, placing the West at the lowest level and the civilizations of the East and of pre-Columbian America at the highest ones. This inversion determines the main cognitive limit of a significant part of postcolonial studies. However, some postcolonialist thinkers could avoid such exclusive attitude. Interestingly, their approaches to inter-civilizational dialogue show direct parallels with the Russian tradition, primarily with the “dialogic” of the Russian philosopher and cultural scientist Mikhail Bakhtin.*

**Keywords:** *postcolonial discourse, existential basis, cognitive limit, dialogue, exclusive discourse, inclusive discourse, borderline situation, borderline civilization, subecumenics.*

**Natalia TRAVKINA****THE DEVELOPING CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY**

**Abstract.** *The article analyzes several aspects of the developing crisis of the institution of family in contemporary American society. The evolution of family relations over the past 70 years can be described as a steady move away from the two-parent model of the “ideal” large family with many children toward childless and single-parent families. Social and economic reasons played a major role in this evolution in the 1970s. However, subsequently the “move away from marriage” has received the status of a “new normal” due to extremist gender ideology, which has casuistically substituted a socially determined category of gender for the biological notion of sex.*

**Keywords:** *nuclear family, baby boomer generation, demographics, fertility rate, family values, female labor force, individualism, gender ideology, changing family function, same-sex family, marriage and religion.*

**Vadim TRUKHACHEV****RUSSIA — SWEDEN: A DEADLOCK IN RELATIONS?**

**Abstract.** *Sweden has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first six months of 2023. This country has a long history of tensions with Russia, and recently it played a major role in the events of the Ukrainian Euromaidan. Today, when historical context is overshadowed by geopolitics, disagreements over Ukraine, interference in Russia's internal affairs and Sweden's intention to join NATO have come to the forefront. There is a variety of opinions, amongst the Swedish political elite, concerning Russia, Ukraine and NATO membership. The most anti-Russian and Atlanticist hawks do not enjoy the support of the majority of the population, nevertheless, no major political party shows understanding for Russia's actions. Therefore, the prospects for Russian-Swedish relations do not look bright, although Sweden cannot be listed among the most ardent opponents of Russia.*

**Keywords:** *Russian-Swedish relations, Swedish political parties, attitude towards Russia, Eastern Partnership, NATO, sanctions, Russia's Special military operation in Ukraine, Carl Bildt.*

**Petr YAKOVLEV****COULD SPAIN BECOME THE ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION? (ON THE RESULTS OF THE DAVOS FORUM 2023)**

**Abstract.** *The 53rd World Economic Forum, held in Davos, Switzerland, on January 16–20 2023, under the slogan "Cooperation in a Fragmented World", predicted the end of globalization and a decade of geoeconomic and geopolitical turmoil. The countries of the European Union, teetering on the brink of economic recession, are among the states with the greatest losses at the turning point in the world order. The states of United Europe are facing new economic challenges and risks, which reflect, on the one hand, a change in the balance of world power and, on the other hand, an intensification of competition within the Western camp itself. In the first case, it is a conflict with Russia, which the collective West is trying to push out of the global economy, and the deepening contradictions with China. In the second case, these are trade and economic disagreements with the United States, including in alternative energy and high technology. In these conditions Brussels is feverishly looking for those EU members that demonstrate comparatively high growth rates and could become the EU's economic motors. Spain, in particular, aspires to such a role. How justified are these expectations?*

**Keywords:** *World Economic Forum, Davos Forum 2023, global economic slowdown, European Union, recession, Russia, change in the balance of power, China, competition, USA, Spain, reforms and modernization.*

**Ella ZADOROZHNYUK****COMING INTO POWER UNDER THE BANNER OF HAVELISM**

**Abstract.** *Since the end of 2021, the Czech Republic has been ruled by political forces whose actions and narratives are visibly or invisibly underpinned by the spirit of Havelism. Havelism, the legacy of Václav Havel, can be characterized as a combination of anti-Russian stance, in foreign policy, with manipulation of notions of democracy and “the good” coupled with disregard for concrete concerns of society, domestically. These were inherent in Havel and are evident in his followers. Havelism was already at its beginnings a postmodernist project, based on the principle “to seem and not to be”. It is also a style with elements of theater of the absurd and of political buffoonery, which have been adopted by some of the West European leaders of today. The current version of Havelism has an especially strong negative impact on relations with Russia and on international affairs in general.*

**Keywords:** *Havelism, Czech politics, Russia, Czech Republic, Czech-Russian relations, coalition government, democratic values, postmodernism.*