

Abstracts and Keywords

Aleksandr ANANIEV

THE SOUTH CAUCASUS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS

Abstract. *The West's confrontation with Russia is not limited to Ukraine; it is occurring across various domains, especially along Russia's borders. Simultaneously with the collapse of the peaceful "Istanbul Accords" in March 2022, the U.S. administration under J. Biden and its European allies set out to open a "second front" against Russia in the South Caucasus. This was intended to compensate for their limited real capacities in the Ukrainian conflict and to gain an additional lever for geopolitical dominance in the Transcaucasus. To achieve this, the West needs to gain control over at least two of the three Transcaucasian republics. Faced with the pragmatic stances of Georgia and Azerbaijan, the U.S. and its allies have focused their efforts on Armenia, whose leadership has proven most amenable to Western pressure.*

Keywords: *confrontation between the West and Russia, Transcaucasia, South Caucasus, EU sanctions against Georgia, US-Azerbaijan relations, Western policies in the South Caucasus, American strategy for Armenia, N. Pashinyan's foreign policy, British special services operation and Karabakh.*

Mikhail GORINOV Jr.

RUSSIA ABROAD: RUSSIAN MEDICS IN INTERWAR YUGOSLAVIA

Abstract. *The article examines the Russian medical émigré community in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes during the interwar period. Russian doctors made a significant contribution to the development of science and healthcare in interwar Yugoslavia. They taught at Belgrade and Zagreb Universities, worked in health cooperatives and health centers, and established their own medical institutions. During World War II, they actively participated in the resistance movement against the Nazi occupiers, managed hospitals and treated wounded partisans. In his research, the author used questionnaires by medical refugees, kept in the Archives of Yugoslavia.*

Keywords: *Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, doctors, medical community, Belgrade, Zagreb, Russian Red Cross Society, People's Liberation Movement of Yugoslavia.*

Anton KRUTIKOV**THE RUSSIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LITHUANIAN QUESTION IN 1917**

Abstract. *Little-known archival documents of the State Archive of the Russian Federation allow to shed light on insufficiently researched stages of the Russian Empire's policy in the Lithuanian question and the evolution of the Lithuanian national movement. Following the February 1917 Revolution, a segment of the Lithuanian movement loyal to the Provisional Government associated with the Russian authorities a favorable solution to the question of Lithuania's future. This included the borders of the future autonomous Lithuania, particularly in Suwalki province, which was part of the Kingdom of Poland. In light of the intricate ethnic composition of the population in the Lithuanian provinces, the Provisional Government did not fulfill all of the demands put forth by the Lithuanian organizations in Petrograd with regard to administrative and territorial reorganization. The establishment of the boundaries of Lithuanian autonomy was proposed to be based on ethno-territorial realities rather than on the ambitions of Lithuanian politicians. The split of the Lithuanian movement in the Petrograd Seimas, the radicalization of its national-conservative faction, the course of the Russian Revolution since October 1917 and Germany's occupation policy prevented the realization of plans to create a Lithuanian state within its ethnic borders while maintaining close ties with post-February Russia.*

Keywords: *Russia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Provisional Government, February Revolution, Russian Revolution World War I, national question, national policy, Lithuanian statehood.*

Olga LEBEDEVA**THE YALTA-POTSDAM SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: THE END OF HISTORY OR HISTORY WITH CONTINUATION?**

Abstract: *In the context of geopolitical uncertainty, ongoing turbulence, and an expanding global agenda, discussions are intensifying regarding whether the Yalta-Potsdam system has come to an end. The emerging multipolar world is now based on a different balance of power, the emergence of new challenges and threats, and the transformation of diplomatic formats and methods of interaction. Nevertheless, to this day, the world order remains rooted in the universally recognized norms and principles of the UN Charter, developed during the final stage of the Second World War. Some other features of the post-war international system remain relevant as well.*

Keywords: *Yalta-Potsdam system, world order, balance of power, multipolarity.*

Ekaterina NAROCHNITSKAYA**FRANCE: FROM EUROPEAN ELECTIONS TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL TURMOIL**

Abstract. *2024 will remain in modern France history primarily as the year of major internal political turbulence, triggered by the defeat of the presidential coalition in the June European elections. The dissolution of the National Assembly and the outcome of the feverish campaign for its re-election have strained relations between all the main protagonists and turned the legislative chamber into an arena of irreconcilable confrontation between three roughly equal blocs. The new configuration practically excludes the formation of some sufficiently broad relative majority, which is a basic condition for ministerial stability and effectiveness under the presidential-parliamentary regime of the Fifth Republic.*

Keywords: *France, European elections, dissolution of the National Assembly, Emmanuel Macron, macronism, National Rally, parliamentary elections, government crisis.*

Alexander PANYCH**THE YALTA CONFERENCE OF 1945: A PROLOGUE TO NUREMBERG**

Abstract. *Emphasizing the significance of the Crimean (Yalta) Conference for the future world order, the article analyzes one of the fundamental issues discussed by the Allies on the side-lines of the conference: the organization of the prosecution of Nazi criminals for their atrocities. Special attention is paid to the evolution of the Allies' views and the diplomatic struggle over the issue. The reasons behind the Western powers' reluctance to organize a trial for the highest Nazi criminals of the Third Reich are revealed. The author proposes the thesis that the idea of trying the Nazis marked a new chapter in international law having given start to a legally verified procedure for joint participation of states in solving global problems facing humanity.*

Keywords: *Crimean (Yalta) Conference of 1945, Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, judicial punishment of Hitler's criminals, diplomatic struggle, economic prehistory of the Second World War.*

Marina TKACHENKO**TOWARD A NEW MODEL OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE WITH CHINESE SPECIFICITY?**

Abstract. *The increasingly obvious rise of China in the global economy and politics is recognized by both its allies and adversaries. China's economic achievements, military and political strengthening, and innovative development, which have rapidly positioned it as a leader in the system of international relations, make the Chinese model of development attractive to other countries of the Global South. This attractiveness creates the conditions for the emergence of a new model of global governance with distinct Chinese characteristics. China's superiority among other developing countries provokes the growing opposition to China from the United States and several other Western nations, and this tension may hinder the establishment of an alternative global order.*

Keywords: *Chinese model of development, Chinese modernization, Xi Jinping, world order, the concept of "community of common destiny of mankind", "China index", "Belt and Road", U.S.-China rivalry, U.S. strategy.*

Natalia TRAVKINA**CROSSING THE RUBICON: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND THE UN**

Abstract. *This article analyzes the strategy and tactics of the second D. Trump administration regarding the curtailment of American support for the UN and its specialized agencies. The steps taken in this direction, immediately following Trump's return to the White House, represent a logical continuation of his 2017–2021 approach. Currently, Trump's team is acting in strict compliance with the recommendations of the right-conservative Heritage Foundation, which were formulated for the Republican administration in the latest "Mandate for Leadership," published in 2023. In essence, Washington is seeking new ways, means, and levers to subordinate the UN and its institutions to U.S. foreign policy goals and interests.*

Keywords: *UN, League of Nations, "Mandate to Lead.... Project 2025", Heritage Foundation, D. Trump, commercial diplomacy, D. Trump's executive orders, American Sovereignty Restoration Bill, American public and the UN.*

Petr YAKOVLEV**ECONOMIC AGENDA FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH: TOWARDS THE XVII BRICS SUMMIT**

Abstract. *The institutional development of BRICS, its expansion, and the strengthening of its structure and cohesion are taking place in the context of ongoing geopolitical tensions and geo-economic turmoil. The sanctions regimes imposed by the collective West, particularly with D. Trump's return to the White House, are accompanied by threats to initiate new trade wars, including those targeting the BRICS member states. In this context, the collective economic agenda being developed by the BRICS members, aimed at improving the system of international economic relations and prioritizing the protection of the interests of the Global South and World Majority countries, becomes particularly important. A significant step in this direction is expected to be taken at the next BRICS summit in Brazil in July 2025. At this forum, the BRICS participants intend to reaffirm their commitment to free global trade and the establishment of a more diversified and reliable international financial system.*

Keywords: *Global South, international competition, BRICS, Trump's economic course 2.0, Kazan Declaration, Brazil summit, Western policies.*

Ladislav ZEMÁNEK**CENTRAL EUROPE IN SEARCH OF ITS FUTURE**

Abstract. *Central European nations are seeking more extensive autonomy within the Western community and the revival of democracy and conservative values. The rising sovereigntist tendencies are intertwined with efforts to establish new partnerships and accelerate regional cooperation face to face with external challenges, including but not limited to the pressure from the EU's elites, the unpredictability of the second Trump administration, and the transition to a multipolar world order. The article researches the existing platforms of Central European cooperation, particularly the Visegrad Group, the Slavkov Triangle, Bucharest Nine, and Three Seas Initiative, identifying their potential, limitations and geopolitical implications. Attention is paid to emerging cooperation formats with a focus on Austria, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovakia, as these countries tend to conduct a pragmatic foreign policy combined with sovereigntism and the protection of national interests. Furthermore, the rise of both right- and left-wing sovereigntist parties in the region is addressed in connection with the 2024 election to the European Parliament and the formation of new political factions, specifically the 'Patriots for Europe' and 'Europe of Sovereign Nations'. The sovereigntist turn is also examined at the level of civil society, demonstrating an increasing interest in promoting conservative values and reviving democracy against the liberal hegemony and authoritarianism.*

Keywords: *Central Europe, CEE, formats of regional cooperation in CEE, Visegrad Group crisis, Central European sovereignty, sovereigntist parties, regroupings in the European Parliament, Patriots for Europe, Patrimonium Sancti Adalberti association.*

Ladislav ZEMÁNEK**THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND ITS ARMED FORCES: DEPARTMENTAL CONFLICTS, CHALLENGES OF MODERNIZATION, DEFENSE BUDGET, AND ARMS INDUSTRY PROFITS**

Abstract. *Whereas the Czech government emphasizes the priority of security and defense, internal conflicts between the decisive military and security actors are escalating. After identifying the main actors involved and the reasons behind their disagreements, the author concludes that the abovementioned conflicts seem to reflect competing individual and group interests in light of rapidly growing defense budget. The modernisation of the Czech armed forces is inquired into in view of the joint commitments within NATO and the conflict in Ukraine. The analysis then presents a comparative perspective on the dynamic of military spending by NATO countries, points to new trends in defence planning in both NATO and the EU and pays attention to considerable benefits of arms-producing companies, including the biggest Czech arms factory Czechoslovak Group.*

Keywords: *Czech Republic, minister of defense, General Staff, interdepartmental disagreements, military expenditures, NATO, EU, modernization of armed forces, conflict in Ukraine, military-industrial companies.*