

Abstracts and Keywords

Aleksandr ANANIEV

ARMENIA: UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AMID ECONOMIC “DIVERSIFICATION”

Abstract. *This article examines the pre-election dynamics in Armenia ahead of the pivotal 2026 parliamentary elections. The analysis focuses on the socio-economic, political, and international context of the electoral campaign, the configuration of political forces, party platforms, and prevailing public sentiment. Particular attention is given to the position of the ruling Civil Contract party under Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and the fragmented opposition camp, with a noted trend toward the emergence of a significant “third force.” The central argument posits that the election outcome will determine the future trajectory of Armenia’s foreign policy and economic model: a continuation of the current course toward diversification, involving a strategic reorientation toward the West and a normalization of relations with Turkey, or a significant policy shift. The authors contend that a complete rupture of traditional ties with Russia, as a potential consequence of this reorientation, carries substantial risks of severe economic destabilization for the country.*

Keywords: *Armenia, the West, Russia, the EAEU, the South Caucasus, parliamentary elections in 2026, the Civil Contract Party, Nikol Pashinyan, the Armenian opposition, the Armenian Apostolic Church, political repression, the third force.*

Aleksandr ANANIEV

TURKIC INTEGRATION AND RUSSIA: A THREAT OR AN OPTION FOR PARTNERSHIP?

Abstract. *The article presents a comprehensive analysis of the consolidation and expansion processes within the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). It focuses particularly on three key factors: the agenda-setting role of Azerbaijan during its chairmanship; the potential of Turkey as the project’s central driving force; and the strategic interests of Western actors, particularly the United States and Great Britain, in utilizing the OTS to advance their dominance in Central Asia and South Caucasus, thereby challenging the influence of Russia and China. The author argues that the cultural, ideological, and military-political dimensions of Turkic integration pose potential challenges to the Russian Federation, while acknowledging Moscow’s current lack of direct instruments to influence this process. As a concluding policy-oriented assessment, the article explores a risk-mitigation strategy, proposing that Russia consider seeking observer status within the OTS as a viable diplomatic avenue to engage with the organization and safeguard its own strategic interests alongside ensuring regional and international stability.*

Keywords: *Organization of Turkic States, OTS, OTS summit, Turkic union, Turkic integration, Russia and the Turkic union, policy of Azerbaijan, Turkish expansion, US strategy in Central Asia.*

Dmitry FEDOROV**THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE IN RUSSIA:
OUTCOMES OF 2025 (ANALYTICAL REVIEW)**

Abstract. *In 2024–2025, the demographic situation in the Russian Federation continued its long-term negative trend, driven by adverse natural population dynamics. At the same time, migration inflows increased significantly, becoming the primary factor compensating for natural population decline and increasingly extending beyond purely demographic implications. The total fertility rate (TFR) dropped to a critical level, accelerating population aging and creating conditions for a potential systemic shortage of labor resources. As a result, demographic policy — grounded in the principle of preserving the population — has moved to the forefront of the national agenda.*

Keywords: *demographic situation in Russia, demographic policy, demography, migration, birth rate.*

Anton KRUTIKOV**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION IN THE MEMOIRS OF MINSK GOVERNOR
V.A. DRUTSKOY-SOKOLINSKY. I. FROM WAR TO REVOLUTION**

Abstract. *This article examines the memoirs of Prince Vladimir Andreevich Drutskoy-Sokolinsky, a prominent member of the Russian gubernatorial corps. While serving as Vice-Governor of Mogilev, he found himself at the epicenter of the crisis surrounding the Supreme Command in the summer of 1915. Drutskoy-Sokolinsky supported Emperor Nicholas II's decision to assume personal command of the army from Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaevich, and he was adamantly opposed to any manifestation of political dual power. His account of the Grand Duke's dismissal offers valuable insights into the role of the military high command and liberal politicians in their attempts to isolate the monarch and radicalize society. Later appointed governor of Minsk, V.A. Drutskoy-Sokolinsky was in the thick of the revolutionary turmoil of February and March 1917 in that city. In his analysis, he emphasizes the role played by public organizations, originally established to aid the front, in paving the way for the revolutionary explosion. The zemstvo and municipal unions, formed in the initial period of the war, often served as platforms for anti-government propaganda. In the frontline Minsk Province, they provided legal cover for clandestine political activities within the army. The Minsk governor identified the lack of control over these bodies by the civilian administration and their proximity to the front as among the main unresolved challenges facing local authorities. The article draws on published memoirs as well as unique documents from the Drutskoy-Sokolinsky family archive, which were graciously provided to the author by V.A. Drutskoy-Sokolinsky's descendants.*

Keywords: *V.A. Drutskoy-Sokolinsky, Russian Empire, World War I, the Supreme Command, Russian Revolution, February Revolution, Minsk Governorate.*

Boris MARKARYAN**NATIONAL IDENTITY AND MODERN POLITICAL PROCESSES IN ITALY**

Abstract. *The article examines national identity in the context of contemporary political processes in Italy. The author proceeds from the premise of the conceptual ambiguity inherent in the terms “nation” and “identity,” situating them within the analytical framework of constructivism. From this perspective, the nation is understood as a dynamic process, continuously reproduced through socio-political practice. Particular attention is paid to the political dimension of identity, which is articulated through the mechanism of symbolic boundary-making between “insiders” and “outsiders”, as well as to the role this mechanism plays in processes of political mobilization. The article identifies a shift in the primary line of symbolic distinction — from the internal regional “other” to an external one, embodied in the figure of the irregular migrant. This transformation is evident in both public attitudes and the political sphere.*

This shift is analyzed through the transformation of the political discourse and electoral strategy of the Lega party, with a focus on its performance in the 2019 elections.

Keywords: *National identity, political identity, Italy, constructivism, insider–outsider, North–South, migration, political mobilization, Lega, Lega per Salvini.*

Vadim TRUKHACHEV**THE 2025 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC: CORRECTING THE ANTI-RUSSIAN PERVERSION**

Abstract. *The defeat of the ruling coalition in the Czech October 2025 parliamentary elections is analyzed through the lens of foreign policy. The study links this electoral outcome to public dissatisfaction with the P. Fiala government’s assertive stance against Russia, which included significant military support for Ukraine and accepting the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita in the EU. While acknowledging the domestic political split on Russia, the paper argues that the Czech Republic’s leading role in the anti-Russian “vanguard” represented a deviation from its traditional foreign policy posture and dominant public sentiment. The victory of opposition parties is therefore viewed as a correction of this perversion, indicating a potential recalibration of Czech foreign policy.*

Keywords: *Czech elections, Czech foreign policy, P. Fiala’s government, anti-Russian course, Czech parties, Russian–Czech relations, Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic, A. Babis, T. Okamura.*

Vladimir VASILIEV

DONALD TRUMP'S "OLIGARCHIC DEMOCRACY" IN THE EVOLUTION CYCLES OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

Abstract. *The article examines the development of the United States throughout its 250-year history. It argues that the US political history has been, and continues to be, cyclical in nature. Within this cyclical framework, one can interpret the present stage as the historical exhaustion of American democracy. The final phase is "oligarchic capitalism," personified by figures such as Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Peter Thiel. In this stage, the system of international relations, set against the backdrop of existing nuclear missile arsenals, finds itself on the brink of major upheaval. This is driven by the current American leadership's attempts to restore a sort of global-scale "Caesar's power", a concept dating back to the ancient Roman Empire.*

Keywords: *American democracy, oligarchic democracy, D. Trump, American civilization.*

Petr YAKOVLEV, Nailya YAKOVLEVA

ARGENTINA: INTERIM RESULTS OF THE LIBERTARIAN EXPERIMENT

Abstract. *Argentina has remained a focal point for international observers over the past three years due to the controversial outcomes of President Javier Milei's unprecedented libertarian project. Having assumed office in December 2023, Milei embarked on radical market reforms aimed at dismantling the country's entrenched model of state capitalism and left-wing populism. His primary opposition stems from the Peronist movement, which maintains powerful positions in the legislative and judicial branches, regional governments, trade unions, and influential business sectors. The October 2025 midterm congressional elections, analyzed in this article as a plebiscite on the first stage of Milei's agenda, revealed the balance of political forces and the limits of his transformative project. The authors provide an analysis of the current political and economic situation in Argentina, assessing the strengths and vulnerabilities of this ongoing libertarian experiment.*

Keywords: *Argentina, Javier Milei, market reforms, political struggle, parliamentary elections, Trump's policies, patchwork economics.*