

Abstracts and Keywords

Vladimir KONDRATEV

COVID-19 AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

Abstract. *The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on the global economy. All the world's largest countries and all major industries and services have been affected by the crisis. The article discusses the specific facts of the crisis and the problems arising from quarantines, production stoppages, disruptions in the supply of goods and services, as well as the prospects for restoring economic ties between industries and economies.*

Keywords: *COVID-19, global economy, supply chains, industry value chains, touchless economy, contactless economy.*

Anton KRUTIKOV

AT THE INTERSECTION OF GOGOL AND SOVETSKAYA. PROBLEMS OF HISTORICAL POLICY IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, 2000-2020

Abstract. *For decades, the historical policy in the Republic of Belarus was widely used by the power elites to create new objects of historical memory, new national myths and cultural symbols consolidating the society. Frequent change of historical paradigms, situativity of the Belarusian leadership's historical policy greatly contributed to the accumulation of crisis potential. After the presidential elections in 2020, the political and cultural schism that had been developing within the society of post-Soviet Belarus for years changed its localization and spread to streets and squares instead of round tables and scientific conferences.*

Keywords: *Belarus, Byelorussia, Russia, historical policy, national identity, historical memory, national culture.*

Hauke RITZ

THE END OF THE WEST AS WE KNOW IT: MUST WORLD CIVILIZATION BE REDEFINED?

Abstract. *Our present world is quickly transformed by the combined forces of particular megatrends. Especially if we connect two of them, namely the technological trend, which enables for the first time in history a surveillance state, and the trend towards a rising concentration of wealth; then it becomes clear that those two developments tend to strengthen each other. With the same necessity, with which the Republican Age was heralded through the rise of the bourgeoisie, with the same inevitability it will vanish, once the wealth distribution has reached a critical point. It seems humankind is indeed heading towards a kind of dystopian future similar to those described in many science fiction novels, where a feudal class society is usually combined with a high technology surveillance grid. This begs the question*

as to whether or not we can correct the current developmental trajectory of history. Are there counterforces which could help us to guide history in the right direction?

Keywords: *Thucydides's trap, concentration of wealth, "state of surveillance", alternative world system, new bipolarity, European civilization, understanding of history, Art Religion, dualism of European culture, nihilistic postmodernist culture.*

Yakov SHEMYAKIN

ABOUT WALLS AND BRIDGES IN CULTURAL SPACE. NOTES ON THE MARGINS OF MICHEL ESPAGNE'S HISTORY OF CIVILIZATIONS AS A CULTURAL TRANSFER

Abstract. *The review presents a critical analysis of the concept of cultural transfer developed by the French historian Michel Espagne. The main subject of critical comments is the role of the identity factor underestimated by the French scientist. It is argued that social actors' identity in intercultural and/or intercivilizational interaction is a necessary precondition and the main condition for cultural transfer. M. Espagne's focusing on the phenomenon of the mobility of cultural spaces may well be justified for a specific research task. However, absolutizing his research pattern would distort the reality of developments in the realm of culture.*

Keywords: *Michel Espagne, cultural transfer, identity, civilization, intercivilizational interaction.*

Natalia TRAVKINA

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 2020 IN THE UNITED STATES: FACTORS OF GROWING UNCERTAINTY

Abstract. *The article analyzes the prospects for the 2020 presidential campaign after primary elections, which ended with the victory of incumbent President D. Trump in the Republican Party and former Vice-President J. Biden in the Democratic Party. A powerful external factor influencing the usual course of the presidential race has been the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the United States, which is the main element of the growing uncertainty about the possible outcome of the presidential election. An important consequence of the coronavirus pandemic was the gradual slide of the American economy into crisis as early as in the first quarter of this year. Economic turmoil in a year of presidential elections has been one of the most reliable indicators for upcoming change in the White House at least since 1920.*

Keywords: *presidential campaign in the USA 2020, presidential elections 2020, Donald Trump, coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19, economic recession, mass riots, crisis of political system.*

Petr YAKOVLEV**D. TRUMP'S POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA: OUTCOMES AND PROSPECTS**

Abstract. *The Trump administration's policy south of the Rio Grande has revived the use of force in the spirit of infamous Monroe Doctrine and big stick diplomacy. As a result, an atmosphere of unpredictability has arisen between the United States and Latin America, and current trends in inter-American relations could be analyzed from the perspective of "controlled chaos" theory. In particular, D. Trump's aggressive political and diplomatic actions have significantly complicated the geopolitical situation in the strategically important Caribbean region. American-Cuban relations, normalized by Barack Obama, sharply deteriorated, and the regime of trade and financial sanctions against Venezuela, against which a real political and propaganda war was launched, was tightened to the utmost extent. The U.S. interaction with the largest countries in the region — Mexico and Brazil — has become more complex and ambiguous.*

Keywords: *USA, Latin America, Caribbean, Cuba, IADB, D. Trump administration, Trumponomics, crisis circle, J. Biden, election campaign.*

Nailya YAKOVLEVA**INTEGRATION WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION: IS IBEROLUX POSSIBLE?**

Abstract. *Recently, an idea of creating a smaller integration group within the main integration union of the planet - the European Union - has been crystallizing. This is about integrating two countries of the Iberian Peninsula — Spain and Portugal. Their relations have gained "cruising speed" and have improved so much that the eventual association has even been named Iberolux, by analogy with Benelux. While this is only an idea, there is evidence that a new Iberian integration community within the EU may emerge in the future. Despite numerous challenges and risks that can hinder the realization of this prospect and complicate the Spanish-Portuguese dialogue, the emerging phenomenon of intra-Iberian integration is of obvious interest, especially against the backdrop of the crisis trends in the European Union.*

Keywords: *Spain, Portugal, Spanish-Portuguese Relations, Iberian summits, trade and tourism, integration prospects, Iberolux.*

Ella ZADOROZHNYUK**A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF CZECH POLITICAL HISTORY: STABILITY THROUGH "CAUTIOUS" NANOPOLITICS**

Abstract. *The key events of the 25-year political history of the Czech Republic are considered: the 1998 Opposition Agreement between the two leading forces — the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSDP); the emergence of ANO 2011 (Action of Dissatisfied Citizens); the Patent of Tolerance concluded in 2018 between the ANO 2011 and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia. The concept of "nanopolitics" is introduced to*

designate domestic and foreign policy actions which make minor moves with major implications for the country's political course and attract international attention. The local short breath policy associated with these actions might have long-term consequences, including global ones. The demolition in April 2020 in Prague of the monument to its liberator Marshal Ivan Konev is one of the examples of this kind of policy.

Keywords: *Czech Republic, Czech domestic politics, Czech parties, nanopolitics, Opposition Agreement, "Patent of Tolerance", monument to I. Konev in Prague.*