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International Policy

Petrovskaya O. V. COVID-19 Pandemic as an Indication of the EU's East-West Divide.

The author notes dissimilarities in strategies and results of the COVID-19 containment efforts between the eastern and western parts of the European Union. The new union members cope with the pandemic generally better than the old ones. The article provides an insight into special aspects of political, demographical, and socio-cultural developments in the Central and Southeast European countries which mitigate the pandemic in that region. The crisis' impact on the European solidarity and future EU prospects are also observed here.

Keywords: *COVID-19 pandemic – the European Union – Central and Southeast Europe – European solidarity* 11

Yemelyanov A. I. Special Aspects of the U.S. Modern Geopolitical Strategy.

The author argues that the pillars of geopolitics – struggle for "Lebensraum" and national control over territories – have remained mostly constant regardless of global political developments. Various actors have recently undertaken efforts to strengthen their positions on the way to a truly multipolar world order which is fostered by globalization, while the United States aspires to preserve the status quo of the international relations. The author believes that it is crucial to deduce the genesis and determinants of the U.S. modern foreign policy, as it is one of the most active participants in the global political process.

Keywords: *geopolitics – international relations – political culture – political process – strategic culture – Russia – the USA* 55

Podchasov N. A. Albanian Political Parties' Struggle for Power in North Macedonia.

North Macedonia's political system is characterized by a firm distinction between ethnically Macedonian and Albanian parties. Leaders of the latter strive to expand political privileges of their ethnic minority. That common objective urges all Albanian political forces to join their efforts from time to time. However, other periods are characterized by a bitter fight between them which results in frequent changes of leadership (comparing with the Macedonian faction) and permanent radicalization of political demands.

Keywords: *North Macedonia – the Albanians – political parties – inter-ethnic rivalries* 71

Usov V. A. Issues of the UN Security Council Reform Concerning India and African Countries.

The problem of the United Nations' reform, especially its Security Council, has remained in the center of world politics for at least several decades. India and some African countries have shown the most interest in that process. A growing number of states (including Russia) and international organizations support their inclusion in the group of UNSC permanent members. However, complexity of the procedure, as well as contradictions between present UNSC members obstruct the much-needed reforms. That situation undermines the United Nations' authority and induces India and the African countries to search for other ways of consolidating their positions in global affairs.

Keywords: *India – Africa – UNSC reforms – Kofi Annan proposals – G-4 – "Ezulwini consensus" – Russia* 91

Khaitseva M. V. Climate Change and Its Possible Implications for the South Asian Countries.

The climate change is an issue which measurement is not so veracious taking into account the complicated and intertwined perplexity of various natural phenomena. That's making a difference from ecological issues caused by direct human activities and economic developments. The detected negative climate changes have made uneven impacts on different South Asian countries, varying from slow and latent to critical and irreversible. However, even modest worsening in conditions can further bring major issues for their economic development and undermine socio-political stability of any country, as well as the whole region.

Keywords: *global climate change – South Asia – water resources – precipitation – annual temperature – rising sea level – glacial melting – groundwater – climate refugees/migrants* 108

Defense and Security

Vilovatykh A. V. Information Warfare as a Factor of History and Modern Political Relations.

The article examines political implications of information warfare. The author observes various writings by Russian and foreign pundits, contributed to elaboration of the information security theory. Special aspects of information impacts practiced during hallmark events in world history are noted here. The author also analyses the role of digital technologies' factors in shaping modern trends in the aforementioned field of activities.

Keywords: *information warfare – digital technologies – information and psychological impact – cybersecurity – public opinion – mass consciousness – national security* 126

Nikolaychuk I. A., Yanglyaeva M. M., Yakova T. S. Phenomenon of Post-Truth and the Crisis of Public Confidence over Legitimate Sources of Information.

The article deals with post-truth – a novel phenomenon of politics and media in the XXIth century. The authors observe anthropic factors contributing to appearance of various post-truth narratives, analyzing big data from the perspective of crisis in popular confidence over public institutions and mass media in various countries. The article examines the process of post-truth consumption and potential market for the novel product in political, social, and media areas.

Keywords: *post-truth – crisis of confidence – mass media – disinformation – fakes* 142

Chizhov D. A. The U.S. Coast Guard in the Context of Modern Geopolitics.

The article analyses possible paths for development of the U.S. Coast Guard in the environment of aggravating global adversary between Washington, Moscow and Beijing. The author observes various options for using the organization, for example, in strengthening the U.S. coastal waters defense, boosting its presence in some parts of the World Ocean, improving its mechanism of interaction with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Keywords: *the USA – Coast Guard – the U.S. Navy – the World Ocean – Russia – China – global competition* 159

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Tsibikov V. A. National System of Suicide Prevention as a Tool for Human Capital Preservation: Evaluating Effectiveness of Various Approaches.

The article observes suicide prevention policies applied by public authorities of Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Canada, Lithuania, Russia, the USA and South Africa. The author examines special aspects of that public activity, revealing a degree of its centralization/ decentralization, manifestations in regulatory documents for the necessity of suicide prevention, and the quality of official statistics. Some recommendations for evaluating those policies' effectiveness are proposed here.

Keywords: *suicide – intentional self-harm – public authority – public governance – suicide prevention – human capital* 170

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Book review: *Scott E.* Familiar Strangers : The Georgian Diaspora and the Evolution of Soviet Empire / By Erik R. Scott ; Transl. from English by O. Leontieva. Moscow : New Lit. Review, 2019. 384 p.

Keywords: *history of the USSR and Georgia in the XXth cent. – the Georgian diaspora – national and cultural policy of the USSR – identity politics – national consciousness – national and cultural policies of empires and multinational states* **185**

Gubin A. V. The Uncomfortable Future.

Book review: *Shambaugh D.* China's Future / David Shambaugh. Cambridge ; Malden : Polity Press, 2017. 203 p.

Keywords: *the USA – China – international relations – global governance – political forecasting* **199**

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