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Economy


Facing a full-blown crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, governments of many countries have introduced containment measures resulted in shutdown of various economic sectors. Those restrictive actions have caused nearly complete freezing of international passenger transportation and various services sectors, severing global supply chains. The article demonstrates that sanctions, embargoes and trade wars in this conditions reduce the world economy potential for recovery from the coronacrisis, jeopardizing the affected countries’ abilities to mobilize resources which are necessary for mitigating the negative social implications of the pandemic. Ultimately, the sanctions adversely affect the ordinary people's life, exacerbating the global inequality in favor of a few countries' "economic egotism".


Gribova N. V. Chinese Households’ Consumption: Key Trends and the Pandemic Factor.

In May 2020, China's leadership proclaimed a course towards the new model of national economy which is characterized by "dual circulation" basing on internal demand, mostly from households. The article observes the dynamics and key trends of Chinese households’ consumption in the current circumstances. The focus is on main factors driving the families’ behavior as well as evaluation of the coronavirus pandemic’s impact on the current state and future prospects of the consumers’ demand in China.

Keywords: China – consumption – consumers’ demand – consumer spending – households – digital commerce .......................................................... 33

New Eurasia

Popov D. S. Tajikistan's Internal Politics and Socio-Economic Situation amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The official statistics of Tajikistan presents the national epidemiological situation as developing in a more favorable scenario compared with most other post-Soviet states. However, the accuracy of national medical statistics raises some doubts, while the pandemic has made a marked impact on economy, society, and internal politics of the country.

Keywords: Tajikistan – epidemics – coronavirus – COVID-19 ......................... 60
Lukjanovich N. V. Prospects for Eurasian Economic Integration in the Context of Rising Global Challenges and Threats.

The article provides insight into issues for further integration of the CIS countries and the Eurasian Economic Union in the context of growing geopolitical instability, global economic crisis, and the coronavirus pandemic. The author demonstrates the key role of Russia in those processes, dealing with both geopolitical and geoeconomic aspects.

Keywords: Eurasian integration – the CIS – the Eurasian Economic Union – trade and economic cooperation – foreign trade – global challenges and threats ................................................. 78

State and Society


The COVID-19 pandemic has not yet significantly altered the Satisfaction with Life Scales in Western societies and Russia as well. Here and there the populace is generally supportive of the containment measures introduced by the governments. The authors explain that the system of personal values, deep rooted in the countries under study, helps to maintain the social stability regardless of any short-term force majeure shocks. The dominating one among them is security, the authors argue. The comparative study of the modern basic values in Russia and Germany, presented in the article, indicates that common patterns can positively affect the bilateral cooperation of the two countries in the field of socio-political designing.

Keywords: satisfaction with life – basic values – value-based classes – vision of the future – the coronavirus pandemic .......................................................... 97

International Policy

Krasnyuk V. I. The Best Foreign Practices for Containing the First Wave of Coronavirus Pandemic.

The article analyses successful measures directed against the first wave of the novel coronavirus infection in South Korea and Germany. The author argues that the key to success of both countries lies in their systematic approach to national planning and dealing with biological threats, the governmental cooperation with academic institutions and private companies, the effective mobilization of medical and epidemiological institutions’ personnel as well as the implementation of innovative technologies. South Korea has also learned some lessons from its struggle with the MERS outbreak in 2015, which facilitated the containment of the novel epidemic. Germany succeeded in preventing mass infection among the critically important groups of population and thus avoided overburdening of medical facilities.

Keywords: biological threats – coronavirus – epidemic – pandemic – Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) .................................................. 119
Komissina I. N. China as a Potential Pretender to the Global Leadership.

The article deals with recent trends in China’s international activity. A number of experts interpret it as the country’s pretension for the global leadership. Meanwhile, the author notes a clear desire by Beijing to build a global infrastructure which would be the most suitable for its national interests. Those aspirations face a stiff opposition from the USA and its allies, which to their surprise realized that China has turned from a potentially “responsible participant” (a role desired for Beijing by the West) into a “strategic competitor”.

Keywords: China – the USA – global common wealth – international relations – global leadership ........................................................................ 130

Defence and Security


The article examines various tools for psychological impact, which were used for information operations in the Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic. The author notes multiple psychological effects and phenomena which may facilitate the dissemination and digestion of destructive information. Factors and methods improving psychological resistance towards a negative information impact are also revealed in the article.

Keywords: information operation – artificial intelligence – infodemic – echo cameras – digital propaganda – fake news ............................................ 164

History and Politics

Nemensky O. B. Foreign-Policy Topics in Political Programs of Polish Parties during the 2019 Elections.

The article deals with specifics of presentation by main Polish parties of key foreign-policy issues in their political platforms and public discussion about them during the 2019 elections. The author has made an analysis of the campaign and results of the parliamentary elections. The focus is on the ruling Law and Justice Party, as well as opposition to it from the left – the Civic Platform Party, and opposition from the right – the Confederation Liberty and Independence.

Keywords: Poland – Poland’s foreign policy – Poland Russia relations – Poland-Ukraine relations – the European Union – Poland-EU relations – Poland U.S. relations – euroscepticism – “Europe of the fatherlands” – the Law and Justice Party – the Civic Platform Party – the Polish far-right – parliamentary elections in Poland – Central Europe – “Intermarium” .............. 175

The article observes the Estonian politics of the past in reference to legal formalization of the nation state. Proclaiming its independence on the principle of legal continuity from the interwar period republic, Estonia exploits the memory politics as a justification for fixating the Russian populace’s inferior status. The author notes the key constituents of that politics: the concept of Baltic’s “occupation”, ethnocentrism and anti-communism, all of which are traced in the national legislation, scientific, educational, social, and cultural spheres. The coordinating and directing role is reserved for the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, which activity is typical for such kind of institutions in East Europe.

Keywords: state politics of the past – memory politics – Estonia – ethnocentrism – the Russian speaking populace

Reviews

Surguladze V. Sh. Identity Politics amidst the Crises of Liberal Democracy and Ideology of Multiculturalism.


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