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New Eurasia

Rechits E. V. Constitutional Reform: Prospects
for Socio-Political Transformation in the Republic of Belarus.

Constitution building is a key element for evolutionary socio-political transformation, which is based on popular demand and expectations concerning future prospects of a nation. The author argues that the aforementioned process is time-consuming and comprises multiple stages regardless of any forcing efforts. Nevertheless, the process of modernizing the fundamental law itself contributes to the Belarusian nation's seasoning and stimulates further creative developments inside the republic. The article observes future prospects for the socio-political transformation of Belarus in the context of maintaining the Union State.

Keywords: *the Republic of Belarus – the Union State – constitution building – evolutionary socio-political transformation – creative development* **13**

Karpenko M. S., Kolosov V. A., Sebentsov A. B. Transformation
of Russia-Kazakhstan Border-zone Cooperation in the Post-Soviet Period:
Institutional and Economic Dimensions.

The authors observe the stages of developing Russia-Kazakhstan cross-border cooperation and its legal and regulatory basis on the national and regional levels. The article demonstrates that favorable starting conditions have not yet been converted to the full utilization of opportunities for better economic and other border-zone relations. Various programs for cross-border cooperation are often declarative; they are lacking effectiveness due to insufficient financing and coordination. The process of economic interaction in the border zone is still based on the Soviet legacy, while new production ties remain in their initial stage of development.

Keywords: *Russia – Kazakhstan – cross-border cooperation – ethno-cultural divergence – toponymy – transformation* **25**

Mordvinova A. E. Socio-Economic Challenges to Migration Processes
in Kazakhstan.

The article observes the key tendencies in Kazakhstan's internal and external migration during 2013–2020. The author analyses its dynamics and structure, noting the main public policy measures aimed at regulation and correction of migration processes in the republic. Basing on the aforementioned tendencies,

she states that the high dynamics and character of these processes lead to long-term challenges for the country's socio-economic development: lowering the quality of human capital, deepening issues of regional imbalances and unemployment, aggravating the qualified cadres' deficit. The conclusion is that the current state of affairs would require a considerable revision of Kazakhstan's migration policy in future.

Keywords: *internal migration – immigration – Kazakhstan – migration policy – labor migration – brain drain – emigration* 41

Economy

Petrikov A. V. Improving Russia's Rural Policy: Directions and Priorities.

The article deals with specifics of countryside as a social and territorial subsystem of a wider society. The author makes an analysis of the current state of Russia's village in comparison with the city, revealing key issues of socio-economic development of the Russian countryside. The conclusion is that rapid urbanization is risky because it is fraught with social desertification of rural areas. The author proposes a number of measures for rationalizing the national rural policy in the context of current Russian situation and basing on the best foreign practice, including diversification of rural economy, support of small and medium businesses, strengthening the fiscal capacity of local administration, and building up a multifaceted approach to governing the rural areas.

Keywords: *rural areas – sustainable development of rural areas – urbanization – strategy of spatial development – migration of rural population – income of rural population – diversification of rural economy – improvement of rural development policy* 57

Dodonov V. Yu. Asiatic Direction of Kazakhstan's International Economic Cooperation: Tendencies, Spheres, Key Partners.

The article deals with Kazakhstan's economic cooperation with various countries of Asia, focusing on external trade and investments. A survey of key foreign trade indicators is presented here, covering the period from 1995 to 2020, revealing tendencies for changes in values and shares of main Asian countries in Kazakhstan's export, import, and turnover of merchandise. The author also analyses parameters of Asian investments in the republic's economy, as well as its outbound capital flows. Basing on the survey results, the key Kazakhstan's economic partners are identified here, providing a ranking of their involvement in the country's economy.

Keywords: *Kazakhstan's international economic activity – countries of Asia – foreign trade – foreign investments* 71

Tasits K. I. Mining Industry in Georgia:
Issues and Prospects.

The article presents a complex survey of current state of Georgia's main export business sector – the mining industry. An evaluation of its role in the republic's economy is made here. The author pays attention to socio-political activities of the mining companies, analyzing the COVID-19 pandemic impact on further sectoral developments. Various issues of the mining sector emanating from ecologic and social risks are also noted here.

Keywords: *Georgia – mining industry – deposits – mineral resources – fossil minerals – mining enterprises – export* 90

International Policy

Andreeva E. S. Impact of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict
on Iran's Policy in the South Caucasus.

The article observes the main directions of Iran's cooperation with the South Caucasian countries, revealing factors which determine the Islamic Republic's evolving regional stance. The author demonstrates that Russia's and Turkey's growing regional footprints, resulted from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict's military outcome, have led to weakening Teheran's positions in the South Caucasus. This also calls into question the implementation of some major projects lobbied by the Iranians.

Keywords: *Iran – South Caucasus – Armenia – Azerbaijan – Nagorno-Karabakh conflict – Turkey – cooperation – transport* 104

Kasimova I. S. Turkey's Policy in Syria:
Strategic Objectives, Tactics, and Constraints.

The Syrian vector is one of the most important for the foreign policy of Turkey. This state of affairs is determined by the Turkish history, the stance of the ruling Justice and Development Party, the main national objectives, and the national security issues. The author makes an effort to point out Ankara's long-term objectives in the Syrian conflict, characterizing mechanisms for their realization, analyzing and explaining some variations in its modus operandi, as well as making a forecast of further Turkish leadership's objectives.

Keywords: *Turkey – Syria – the Ottoman Empire – "National Oath" – R. T. Erdogan – the Syrian conflict settlement* 117

State and Society

Aleinikova S. M. Axiological Portrait of the Modern Belarusian Society.

The author argues that intensifying integration inside the Union State requires a more detailed information about historical and socio-cultural particularities of the Belarusian and the Russian people. The Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies has conducted a number of surveys in 2020–2021, aimed at composing an axiological portrait of the modern Belarusian society and revealing its key tendencies. A summary of these results is presented in the article.

Keywords: *the Republic of Belarus – Belarusian society – Belarusian Orthodox Church – identity – religion – values* 135

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Marchukov A. V. Genocidal Policy on the Occupied Territories of the USSR and Russophobia (the Case of Ukraine).

The article deals with Nazi Germany's policy on the occupied territories of the Soviet Union (particularly the South and East of Ukraine) and its interpretation in political, legal, and historical discourse of the USSR, Russia, and Ukraine. The judicial organs of Russia qualify this policy as a genocide. The Ukrainian nationalists have played an active role in its implementation. Their collaboration with Russia's enemies at that time had certain reasons and origins.

Keywords: *genocide – occupation regime – Russophobia – Ukrainian nationalists – Ukraine* 148

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Book review: *Kunze T., Vogel T.* From the Soviet Union to Independence. Traveling through the 15 former Soviet Republics / By Thomas Kunze and Thomas Vogel ; Transl. from German by M.A. Peregudova, K.M. Arykbaeva. Moscow : Kuchkovo Pole, 2020. 288 p.

Keywords: *disintegration of the USSR – Post-Soviet space – identity politics – nation-building – memory politics – political history at the end of the XXth century and first decades of the XXIst century* 163

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Book review: *Savin L.V.* Ordo Pluriversalis :
A Revival of Multipolar World Order / By Leonid Savin.
Moscow : ID "Kislrod", 2020. 592 p.

Keywords: *multipolarity – post-colonialism – transition of power –
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