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International Policy

Fedorzev, V. A. German policy in relation to Russia: trends and prospects.

The Ukrainian crisis completely changed the nature of Russian-German relations, placing Germany in the position of having to change directions and priorities. In the meantime, however, Berlin has not formulated a new concept of relations with Russia, and today Germany's "Russian policy" is in a state of strategic uncertainty. The article examines the main factors influencing Berlin's attitude towards Moscow, as well as approaches offered today by German politicians and experts as the basis for a new "Russian policy".

Keywords: *Russia — Germany — Russian-German relations* 9

Batorshina, I. A. The impact of the Ukrainian crisis on the domestic politics of the Baltic republics (2014–2015).

The article provides a detailed analysis of events in the Baltic countries in connection with the crisis in Ukraine, given the impact of the Russian factor. The effectiveness of the Baltic republics' national policies and the influence of Ukrainian events on the prospects of easing local political elites' positions on the national question are considered. The article also examines the principal instruments of countering the spread of Russian influence in the Baltic States, taking into account local elites' reevaluation of the role of Russia's "soft power".

Keywords: *Ukrainian crisis — Baltic States — Lithuania — Latvia — Estonia — Russia — "soft power" — national minorities* 24

Lubotskaya, A. S. From the 2010 crisis to date: new pages in Greek political history.

The economic crisis in Greece has subjected the country's socio-economic and political life to changes. Over the past 5 years, the composition of the leading Greek parties has radically changed. Support for the historically dominant New Democracy and PASOK parties has decreased, whilst other political parties, especially the radical left coalition Syriza, have enjoyed a phenomenal surge of support. In the meantime, the change of political players has not led to a resolution of the crisis, creating the prospect of further destabilizing factors in the country's development.

Keywords: *Greece — politics — elections — political parties — the European Union — crisis* 49

Volkhonsky, B. M. India's policy in the Asia-Pacific region in the context of competition with the United States and China.

The rapidly changing balance of power in the world destroys old alliances and leads to the creation of new political alliances and quasi-alliances. Against this background, new powers, whose interests are beginning to extend beyond their own regions, are emerging. One of those powers is India, which is increasingly loudly declaring itself as an independent player, not only in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, but also in the Asia-Pacific region, where the rivalry of two leading world powers — the United States and China — is exacerbating.

Keywords: *India — Asia-Pacific — United States — China — pivot to Asia — regional cooperation and competition — Indo-Japanese relations — Indo-Vietnamese relations — foreign policy of Narendra Modi government — "Look East" strategy and "Act East"* 70

Defence and Security

Kuchinskaya, M. E. Russia–NATO: has the "point of no return" passed?

NATO's development from at least 2012 clearly displays a type of return to classic form. The Ukrainian crisis is being used to give this trend a long-term nature as it transitions to a policy of direct containment of the Russian Federation.

Keywords: *NATO-Russia Council (NRC) — Ukrainian crisis — Syria — CIS — NATO summits — hybrid threats — strategic propaganda — NATO expansion — European missile defense system — Permanent Representative of Russia to NATO* 89

Selyanin, Y. V. Increased military pressure on Russia from the US and NATO.

Against the background of the development of the Ukrainian crisis in 2014–2015, the West has increased its military activity in Europe, especially in Poland, the Baltic states and Ukraine, openly declaring an anti-Russian direction in its activities. The article describes these actions in the context of contemporary American global military policy, as well as several features of US military and military-technical cooperation with NATO and the states concerned.

Keywords: *Russia — US — NATO — US National Security Strategy — National Military Strategy of the USA — the crisis in Ukraine — a global US military policy — the deployment of NATO troops in the Baltic and Poland — military exercises information war* 108

Economy

Dodonov, V. Y. US Federal Reserve monetary policy as a factor in the emergence of the global financial crisis.

The article considers the features and consequences of US Federal Reserve monetary policy, as well as other central banks' monetary policy in recent years. Presents a thesis grounded on the relationship between the Fed's policy of quantitative easing and the formation of conditions conducive to a new global financial crisis due to the US banking system's excessive pumping of liquidity, resulting in bubbles in major sectors of global markets. Notes the Fed's change of course towards tightening monetary policy caused a fall in world commodity markets and the first signs of collapse on the global stock market.

Keywords: *US Federal Reserve — stock markets — global financial crisis — US national debt — commodity markets* 131

Sharova, E. A. Mutual trade between BRICS countries today.

The article investigates the trade relations between the partner countries within the BRICS association. Analyzes the dynamics and structure of the five states' mutual trade and provides an overview of key initiatives for the further development of trade cooperation within the association.

Keywords: *BRICS — foreign trade relations — exports — imports — comparative advantages — preferential trade agreement — free trade regime* 150

Troshin, N. N. Prospects for cross-border borrowing by Russian companies in Asian capital markets.

The article discusses the dynamics and current state of capital markets in developing Asian countries. Despite their significant growth in the last twenty years, many are still closed for cross-border borrowing. The largest of those markets — the Chinese market — is just beginning to open up to accommodate bonds issued by non-residents. At the same time Hong Kong and Singapore — the Asian markets most active in international operations — are primarily focused on issuers from other countries in the region. In addition, the region is strongly influenced by Western investment banks, which creates additional difficulties for Russian companies.

Keywords: *Asian capital markets — cross-border IPO — panda bonds — dim sum bonds — Depositary Receipts* 175

History

Volodikhin, D. M. The Russian period in the history of medieval Eastern Crimea.

The article considers the nationality of early medieval Eastern Crimea in the X-XI centuries and contends that for much of this period the Kerch peninsula, at the very least, belonged to the "Rurikid State" of Kievan Rus.

Keywords: *Crimea — Byzantine Empire — Ancient Rus — Kerch — Tmutarakan principality*. **194**

Marakhovskiy, E. L. Information policy of the USSR, the USA and Germany during the Second World War as exemplified by poster propaganda.

The article presents a retrospective analysis of the information policy of the USSR, the USA and Nazi Germany during World War II. Pays particular attention to agitation and propaganda posters and highlights the main tendencies of informational influence.

Keywords: *information policy — propaganda — posters — the Great Patriotic War — WWII* **206**

Reviews

Surguladze, V. S., Strategic and conceptual approaches to the formation of international relations through the eyes of Henry Kissinger.

Book Review: H. Kissinger, *Understanding Putin. The politics of common sense* / Henry Kissinger. Moscow: Algorithm, 2015. 208 p.

Keywords: *United States — foreign policy — diplomacy — international relations — Geopolitics — ideology — strategic planning — Kissinger — political psychology* **229**

Opilkin A. S. Dynamics of Memory: World War II and German Society.

Book Review: Aleida Assmann. *The long shadow of the past: memorial culture and historical policy* [trans. from German by Boris Khlebnikov]. M.: New Literary Review, 2014. 328 p.

Keywords: *Aleida Assmann — World War II — the cultural memory — the memory of the individual — Germany* **240**

Uzunova, N. Y. French pessimism: intellectuals on the reasons for the decline of the nation-state.

Book Review: *Éric Zemmour. Le Suicide français*, 2014, Albin Michel, 534 p.

Keywords: *France — General de Gaulle — conflict — national identity* **244**

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