
CONTENTS

RISS Presentations

BRICS and Latin America: current status, issues and prospects.

The report analyzes the strategies of BRICS member countries in Latin America and the particular features of their interaction with other countries in the region. The prospects of cooperation in a multilateral "BRICS – Latin America" format are considered. Particular attention is paid to the vector of Russian policy in relation to Latin American countries.

Keywords: *BRICS – Latin America – international relations – multi-polar world* 11

International politics

Babichenko, K. N. Abuse of law and judicial institutions as a method of historical policy.

The article explores the phenomenon of historical policy by reference to its judicial-legal component. Analyzing norm-setting in the countries of Europe, Asia and the former Soviet Union, as well as decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, the author highlights the process of distorting and modifying attitudes about the recent past. The issue of lustration is separately addressed. Draws conclusions about the need to confront forensic legal intervention in the sphere of historical interpretation.

Keywords: *European Court of Human Rights – law – history – lustration – norms – politics – Ukraine* 32

Frolova, I. Y. China's "Silk Road Economic Belt" project: development, issues and prospects.

The significant "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative was launched by the People's Republic of China in the autumn of 2013. The reasons for the emergence of this project, the process of its realization and expert assessment of its development prospects are discussed in the article.

Keywords: *China – national strategy – Silk Road Economic Belt – international relations – economic development – regional security – Eurasian Economic Union* 47

Mikhailov, S. A. United States policy towards Ukraine: concepts and current policy.

The article offers a holistic appraisal of the intentions and efforts on the part of the United States with regard to the Ukrainian crisis and the consequent confrontation with Russia. The role of the Ukrainian conflict in American global strategy is analysed, and differences between American and European perceptions of the crisis are shown. The situation with which the United States is faced in the current phase of the crisis is outlined.

Keywords: *United States – Ukraine – US foreign policy – Ukrainian crisis – Donbass – DNR – LNR – Minsk Agreement – US European allies* 68

Svistunova, I. A. Turkey and Bulgaria: problems and prospects of modern relations.

The article deals with the key issues of modern Turkish-Bulgarian relations. In recent years Turkey has managed to establish a political dialogue with the Bulgarian leadership and to expand economic ties with Bulgaria. Nevertheless, given their history, the potential for conflicts between the two countries remains.

Keywords: *Turkey – Bulgaria – Turkish-Bulgarian relations – Turkish foreign policy – international relations* **87**

Svedencov, V. L. Chinese policies in relation to the Chinese diaspora in South-East Asia.

This article analyzes China's politics in relation to various groups of Chinese people permanently residing in Southeast Asia and throughout the world. The author explores the role of the Chinese diaspora in the economic and scientific development of modern China and in ensuring her security.

Keywords: *Chinese diaspora – South East Asia – China – huáqiáo – huàrèn* **104**

New Eurasia

Popov, D. C. Tajikistan facing the threat of international terrorism.

Tajikistan was one of the post-Soviet republics most affected by international terrorist structures. After enduring a bloody civil war and heavy combat with irreconcilable armed gangs, the Republic has, with Russia's support, become the Collective Security Treaty Organisation's main southern stronghold against the radical Islamist forces concentrated in Afghanistan.

Keywords: *Tajikistan – central Asia – terrorism – civil war – Batken incidents – Islamic movement of Uzbekistan – IGIL – Hizb-ut-Tahrir – Taliban – Russian military base* **126**

Ivanov, V. A. Approaches in the Armenian information space in relation to the "four-day war" in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The article presents various approaches that have evolved in the Armenian information space in the context and as a result of the exacerbation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Analysis of the country's information space shows the considerable importance regained by the trend which seeks to shift responsibility for those developments to Russia. At the other end of the information spectrum the dominant theme became the search for internal, rather than external, responsibility.

Keywords: *information warfare – media – Nagorno-Karabakh conflict – Russia – CSTO – EAEC – the OSCE Minsk Group* **148**

Economics

Holodkov, V. M. Structural reforms in Russia and the Chinese experience.

The Russian economic crisis, caused by liberal economic policies and the economy's excessive dependence on world oil prices, brings the the issue of structural reforms into sharp relief. Their goal - diversification and the transfer of the economy to a path

of innovative development, reducing the share of the oil and gas sector and promoting sustainable GDP growth over the long term. Degradation awaits if Russia preserves the liberal economic model. China, with its remarkable achievements in all aspects of economic and scientific and technological development, provides an example of effective structural reforms.

Keywords: *Russian economy – crisis – liberal economic policy – structural reforms – China's economic achievements – the experience of Chinese reforms* 161

History

Eliseev, G. A. Was Stalin a "Russian Patriot"?

The ideological views of Joseph Stalin and the theory of world revolution.

Contemporary academic and popular historical literature promotes the theory that Stalin's policies (including foreign policies) were guided by considerations of Great Russian and ethnic Russian patriotism. The article disputes this position.

Keywords: *Stalin – patriotism – world revolution – communism – foreign policy – the Great Patriotic War – historical mythology* 191

Rakhimov, R. N. The Turkestan campaigns of the second half of the 19th century: the experience of Russian military history in modern "memory wars".

The article deals with the transformation of the Russian Army's Turkestan campaigns in scientific and educational literature. For the post-Soviet republics this has become one of the most fundamental themes in local elites' process of building a national identity. In Russia the inertia of the Soviet historiography impedes society's understanding of the phenomenon of Empire and the genetic relationship with the East. Contradictory assessments of the Turkestan campaigns and an unwillingness to discuss a shared historical past lead to a conflict of national stories, which acts as a destructive force in the Eurasian space.

Keywords: *Russian military history – Turkestan campaigns – historical memory – "memory wars" – Central Asian States* 202

Religion and politics

Serebrich, A. A. The role of North American Ukrainian churches in the realisation of a local Orthodox Church of Ukraine project.

Over the past 20 years the battle to construct a national Local Orthodox Church of Ukraine has moved from the realm of theological debate into the realm of political speculation. The union of all branches of Ukrainian Orthodoxy into a single national church and its acquisition of canonical status is considered as a means of legitimizing the existence of the Ukrainian State and the excision of Ukraine from the common civilizational space shared with Russia. One of the most important roles in this project is played by the churches of the Ukrainian diaspora in North America, namely the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, which have been subject to the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since the late 1980s and early 1990s respectively.

Keywords: *Church schism – local church – canonical territory – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada – Patriarchate of Constantinople – diaspora – jurisdiction – church politics – inter-faith relations* 218

Reviews

Surguladze, V. Sh. Russia–USA: vectors of geopolitical identity.

Book review: *Stent, A.* The Limits of Partnership: US-Russian relations in the XXI century / trans. from English by Elena Lalayan. Moscow: Mann, Ivanov and Ferber, 2015. 464 pages.

Keywords: *Russian-American relations – foreign policy – geopolitics – geopolitical identity – ideology* **239**

Surguladze, V. Sh. The way of Francoist Spain: from fascist dictatorship to constitutional monarchy

Book review: *Pozharskaya, S. P.* Francisco Franco and His Time. Moscow: Algorithm, 2014, 352 pages.

Keywords: *Franco – falangism – Francoism – ideology – transition from authoritarianism to democracy* **244**

Surguladze, V. Sh. Past and present Chinese foreign strategy: lessons for Russia.

Book review: *Kissinger, H.* On China / trans. from English by V. N. Verchenko. Moscow: AST, 2015, 635 pages.

Keywords: *Henry Kissinger – People's Republic of China – China – foreign policy – diplomacy – international relations – ideology – foreign policy strategic planning* **249**

Publications of RISS **260**