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Bondarev N. V. Political Crisis in Macedonia and its Implications for the wider Balkan Region.

The article discusses reasons and characteristics of the recent crisis in the Republic of Macedonia. The crisis is characterized by two-level conflict: the political one – between two "systemic" parties – and the ethnical one – between the Slavic and Albanian populations – with a long history of deep divisions. The crisis is viewed in the context of Russian interests in the Balkans, security issues in the wider Balkan region, and the rise of radical Islamism.

Keywords: *the Balkans – the Republic of Macedonia – popular protests – elections – revision of Constitution – federalization – Albanization – international terrorism* 11

Biryukov E. S. Security Relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The article deals with the Iranian-Saudi antagonism in regional security and foreign policy matters. The author observes evolution of the Saudi Arabian foreign policy from conservative to proactive stance and examines both countries' relations with Egypt, Pakistan, and the Arabian monarchies.

Keywords: *Iranian foreign policy – Saudi Arabian foreign policy – Iranian-Saudi relations – Iran – Saudi Arabia* 21

Zelenkova M. S. The U.S. "Soft Power" Policy in Vietnam.

The "soft power" has always been an effective tool for promoting the American national interest. Washington considers Vietnam an important part of its overall deterrence strategy towards China and desires to neutralize increasing Chinese influence in the country. In order to achieve that goal and also to increase the American influence in wider region, USA is applying a full range of "soft power" tools including educational programs, NGO and media.

Keywords: *USA – Vietnam – "soft power" policy – shaping public opinion – influence on domestic policy process – educational programs* 40

New Eurasia

Ponomaryov A. A. Religion. Culture. Civilization: Models for Understanding the Russian–Ukrainian Crisis of 2014.

The article presents analysis of domestic reasons for the recent crisis in Ukraine. The author proposes a range of political, ethnical and social models for clearer view of the issue. They are designed to achieve a better understanding of the Anti-Russian sentiment in Ukraine and other aspects of the crisis which resulted in deep reformatting of the region.

Keywords: *Ukraine – Russia – crisis – 2014 – models* 55

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The article deals with the European Migration crisis of 2015–2016 and some concurrent events. The author observes migration policy of the European authorities and evolution of the European public attitude towards migrants. The research paper also examines economical and socio-cultural repercussions and security effects of mass migration to the continent.

Keywords: *the European Union – migration – Islam – security – multiculturalism – nationalism* 76

Khokhlov A. A., Dolbin D. A. The Problem of Russian Citizens' Involvement in Social Media in the Context of Public Security: An Interdisciplinary Analysis.

The article touches upon some theoretical and practical aspects of social media networking in the context of Russian public security situation. The author outlines positive and negative effects of the specified subject, gives recommendations to public authorities on social networking sites regulation. The problem is analyzed on the basis of interdisciplinary synthesis approach.

Keywords: *social networking sites – virtualization – aggression – violence – reorientation – security – effect* 95

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Karataev S. V. The New Development Bank's Position in the Current International Framework.

The article considers current performance indicators of the New Development Bank created by the BRICS countries in 2015. The Bank has become the first international financial organization to be fully controlled and operated by developing countries. The author evaluates the Bank's business practice and estimates if it could take advantage of granted opportunities to occupy a rightful place among the existing development institutions.

Keywords: *the BRICS – the World Bank – the New Development Bank – international financial organizations – developing economies* 106

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Zalessky K. A. The Russian and Western Civilizations' Antagonism: A View from the West.

The article deals with history and current state of the civilizational confrontation between Russia and the West. The main focus is on the West which is constantly irritated by the very existence of a hostile civilization. Following the XIXth

century's tradition, the West considers Russia and the Russian Orthodox civilization as a threat to its very existence. That enmity is camouflaged by efforts to proclaim Russia as an uncivilized, aggressive, barbaric and authoritarian state.

Keywords: *the Russian civilization – the Western civilization – the European values – Transatlanticism – Germany* 135

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Maslov I. M., Serebrich A. A., Ivanov E. O., Rogatin V. N.
All-Orthodox Council's Results in the Context of Russia's International Security.

The All-Orthodox Council in June 2016 was a headline-making event which attracted much attention not only among the church milieu but also among broad international community. The Council showed up deep divisions in the Orthodox Ecclesia and aggravated inter-church tensions, especially between the Patriarchates of Moscow and Constantinople. The Council's reception also denoted the problem of unity among the Russian Orthodox Church – one of the basic national institutions of Russia.

Keywords: *All-Orthodox Council – Russian Orthodox Church – Patriarchate of Constantinople – Phanar – inter-church relations – religion and politics – Church schism – reception – Ukraine* 152

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Keywords: *Islam – Salafism – extremism – terrorism prevention – Urals – imam – ideology – Sverdlovsk Oblast* 171

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Keywords: *information security – cyberwar – NSA – USA – military network complex* 185

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Book review: *Chebotaryov A. E.* Political Thought in Sovereign Kazakhstan: Dynamics, Ideas, Evaluation. Astana–Almaty: IWEP under the Foundation of the First President, 2015. 512 p.

Keywords: *political thought in Kazakhstan – history of Kazakhstan – statehood of Kazakhs – Constitution of Kazakhstan – Russia-Kazakhstan bilateral relations – Russians in Kazakhstan* 192

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Book review: *Rogatin V. N.* Persecutions of the Orthodox Christianity in Ukraine
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Keywords: *Ukraine – Church – the Orthodox Christianity – confessional
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Book review: *Kuznechevsky V. D.* The "Leningrad Case". Moscow:
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Keywords: *USSR – the Soviet history – the All-Union Communist
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