

SUMMARIES

Esin V.I. The Cuban Missile Crisis: Open Questions and the Most Instructive Lessons

The author of the present paper, a direct participant of the Operation Anadyr, offers his own interpretation of the dramatic events of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The paper examines political, strategic, and military motives behind the Soviet government's decision to deploy nuclear intermediate-range missiles in Cuba and its actions during the subsequent escalation of the crisis. Special attention is paid to technical aspects of the Soviet military presence in Cuba and their impact on the crisis development. The analysis of the Soviet-American talks, which led to a peaceful compromise settlement of the conflict, allows the author to draw several instructive lessons that can be highly relevant to the current crisis diplomacy.

Keywords: Cuban Missile Crisis, Operation Anadyr, the Soviet Union, the United States, Soviet-American relations, N.S. Khrushchev, J.F. Kennedy, crisis diplomacy.

Borodaev V.A. The Cuban Government's Position during the October Crisis

The historiography of the Cuban Missile Crisis dwells primarily on actions and motivations of the two superpowers, that stood on the brink of a nuclear war but managed not to cross the threshold. Despite the fact that Cuba was the arena where the interests of the USSR and the United States clashed, the position of the Cuban government usually escapes scholars' attention. The present paper provides a thorough analysis of the Cuban revolutionary leaders' views on the international position of their country in the late 1950s – early 1960s. It also examines the intricacies of Havana's relations with Washington and Moscow, including the talks over the deployment of the Soviet nuclear intermediate-range missiles in Cuba. Special attention is paid to the analysis of how the Cuban leadership assessed the events that accompanied the pinnacle of the crisis and its resolution.

Keywords: Cuban Missile Crisis, Cuban Revolution, the Soviet Union, the United States, Soviet-Cuban relations, F. Castro, E. Che Guevara, N.S. Khrushchev, J.F. Kennedy, Operation Anadyr.

Trunov F.O. Determinants of the Soviet Union's Position during the Cuban Missile Crisis

The paper examines the position of the Soviet government during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It identifies political, military, and strategic factors behind the Soviet leadership's decision to deploy nuclear intermediate-range missiles in Cuba. It also examines the implementation of this decision in the course of the Operation Anadyr with a special focus on its clandestinity. The paper explores the factors that influenced the Soviet leaders' quest for peaceful settlement of the crisis. The author concludes with a description of the current challenges to the strategic stability system and shows how the analysis of the Cuban Missile Crisis can help in mitigating those risks.

Keywords: Cuban Missile Crisis, the Soviet Union, Soviet foreign policy, Operation Anadyr, the United States, Soviet-American relations, strategic stability, crisis diplomacy.

***Shikhov Y.N.* The U.S. Approaches to Political Islam in the First Half of the 1990s: Theory and Practice**

This paper examines the U.S. approaches to political Islam in the first half of the 1990s. It was the first time when Islamism rose to the forefront of the U.S. policy agenda in the Middle East and North Africa and started being regarded as a distinctive international problem. The U.S. expert community and foreign policy agencies came up with the idea of conducting dialogue with moderate Islamists – the idea, which later became the basis of the Obama administration’s Middle East policy after the ‘Arab Spring’. The paper analyses the debates on political Islam in the U.S. political and academic circles and George H.W. Bush and William J. Clinton administrations’ approaches to this phenomenon. It also sheds the light on the practical implementation of those approaches in several key countries in the region, such as Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey.

Keywords: political Islam, Islamism, United States, Middle East, North Africa, moderate Islamists, democratization.

***Nechaeva E.V.* International Energy Strategy of China: Opportunities and Challenges for Russia**

The paper examines the main objectives and directions of the international energy policy of the Peoples’ Republic of China, which has become the world’s biggest energy consumer due to the unprecedented economic growth over the last three decades. The paper explores the domestic determinants of this policy and compares different options for satisfying the country’s demand for hydrocarbons. Special attention is paid to defining the place of the Russian Federation in the Chinese government’s complex strategy of ensuring stable energy supply to support economic development, and to assessing the opportunities and risks of the cooperation between two countries in oil and gas sector.

Keywords: China, Russia, energy policy, energy cooperation, energy security, diversification, Central Asia, Middle East.

***Malyshev D.V.* The Transnistrian Conflict: Trajectory of Development**

The paper examines the background, evolution, resolution, and the current state of the Transnistrian conflict. It explores the positions of the conflict parties (the Transnistrian Moldovan Republic and the Republic of Moldova), the mediators (Russia, Ukraine, and the OSCE), and the international observers (the United States and the European Union). The author defines the role of the conflict over Transnistria in the contemporary international relations in the post-Soviet space, argues for the preservation of the peace in the region, and envisages the prospects for dispute settlement.

Keywords: the Transnistrian conflict, the Transnistrian Moldovan Republic, the Republic of Moldova, conflict management, negotiations, peace initiatives, conflict settlement.

Onsha V.V. Victor Yushchenko and Ukrainian Nationalists: The Story of a “Fragile Alliance”

The paper examines the role of post-Soviet Ukraine in Europe and the reflection of this issue in the political struggle within the country. It explores the alliance between Viktor Yushchenko and Ukrainian nationalist parties in 2004–2005, during the pre-electoral and electoral periods, and tracks the subsequent evolution of this alliance up to the parliamentary elections of 2013. The paper provides a short overview of the post-Soviet history of Ukrainian nationalism, which had quite strong support in the western and central regions of Ukraine in the 1990s and is considered one of the main factors behind the Orange Revolution. The paper analyzes Yushchenko’s decisions concerning his cooperation with nationalists, which helped him eventually win the presidency, as well as his mistakes, such as allowing nationalist groups to run on his ‘Our Ukraine’ ticket – a decision that provided his opponents with a pretext to associate his party with nationalism and anti-Semitism. Special attention is paid to the contradictions between Yushchenko and his nationalist allies after their mutual triumph in 2005 and to the reasons for his and his party’s failures in 2010 and 2013.

Keywords: Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, nationalist parties, Orange Revolution, Our Ukraine, election, Verkhovna Rada.

Kochetkov V.V. Identity in Contemporary International Relations. Course Synopsis

The course builds up a comprehensive understanding of the role of identity in contemporary international relations. It summarizes the basic provisions of the main theories of identity and examines how different paradigms of international relations theory treat identity issues. The course also unveils complex interactions between identity and international actors’ interests, goals and means; identity and international ethics and law; identity and conflict/cooperation; identity and international security.

Keywords: identity, international relations, national identity, state identity, cross-cultural differences, culture wars, international security.

Potapov V.Y. Non-Nuclear Deterrence as a Component of Russian Military Doctrine. Commentary on the book “On a System of Non-Nuclear (Pre-Nuclear) Deterrence in Russian Defense Policy” by Andrei A. Kokoshin

The book under review is a new work by Andrei A. Kokoshin, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the 6th Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, who offered his own interpretation of the role of non-nuclear (pre-nuclear) deterrence in Russian defense policy. The reviewer emphasizes the high relevance of Kokoshin’s recommendations to support nuclear deterrence with the use of long-range precision-guided non-nuclear weaponry ‘based on new physical principles’ and to develop the necessary information and communication infrastructure.

Keywords: non-nuclear deterrence, Russian military doctrine, long-range precision-guided weapons, information and communication infrastructure, weaponry ‘based on new physical principles’, escalation dominance.

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