

SUMMARIES

Ahram A.I. The Crisis of Authoritarianism and the Prospects of State Breaking in the Arab World

The recent breakdown of the regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen represents the first crack in the edifice of authoritarianism in the Middle East in over three decades. Opposition forces used new techniques of mobilization to tap into long-standing economic and social grievances. Still, the prospects for real democratization in the Middle East in many cases depend crucially on the overall coherence of the state apparatus. Decades of relying on the cynical politics of survival has led to the hollowing of state institutions like the army, police, security services, and the bureaucracy. Regimes have purposefully blocked any effort to create a solid opposition alliance. In such a context democratic openings, rather than in a first step toward peaceful power transition, could open up fierce competition that tears the very fabric of the state apart.

Keywords: “Arab Spring”, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Syria, state-failure, protest, democracy, authoritarianism, militias.

Tsygankov P.A. Morton Kaplan and Systems Analysis of International Politics

This paper marks the 55th anniversary of Morton Kaplan’s “System and Process in International Politics” that had a long-lasting impact on the development of international political theory. It examines Kaplan’s typology of international systems based on two key criteria — number of actors and power configuration — and forms of political behavior of states in international relations. It also provides an assessment of the book’s contribution to political science and the lessons that can be drawn from contraposing “scientific” and “traditional” approaches.

Keywords: Morton Kaplan, international relations theory, typology of international systems, systems modeling, power configuration, behaviorism.

Barsenkov A.S. “New Thinking” in Soviet Foreign Policy (1985–1991)

The paper examines the Soviet foreign policy under perestroika. It explores the transformation of the doctrinal foundations of international diplomacy under the new political leadership of the Soviet Union guided by M.S. Gorbachev. It also studies the reasons behind the replacement of two core principles of the Soviet foreign policy — peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems and proletarian internationalism — by two innovative concepts: unity of interdependent world and “freedom of choice”. The article tracks the Soviet leader’s attempts at universalizing “new thinking”, bringing the Cold War to an end, and moving to the establishment of a New World Order. Special attention is paid to unveiling the complexities of perception of new ideas both within the Soviet Union and abroad.

Keywords: Soviet foreign policy, perestroika, M.S. Gorbachev, foreign policy doctrine, “new political thinking”, Cold War, disarmament.

Malyshev D.V. From the Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Community to the Eurasian Union: Main Vectors of Integration in the Post-Soviet Space

This article examines the driving forces behind the emergence and evolution of such integration groupings in the former Soviet Union as the Common Economic Space, the Customs Union and the Eurasian Union, and their prospects. It studies the key stages of the institutionalization of these structures, identifies the key challenges to their functioning, as well as their perception by the international community. Special attention is paid to the interaction between these organizations and other multilateral bodies both in the post-Soviet space and the world at large. The conclusion is drawn that the emerging unions may play an important role in the contemporary international relations.

Keywords: the Common Economic Space, the Customs Union, the Eurasian Union, international organizations, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Commonwealth of Independent States, international integration.

Dabagyan E.S. Foreign Policy of Venezuela at the Beginning of the XXI Century: Key Trends

The article examines the main trends in the foreign policy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the beginning of the XXI century after the former military, led by charismatic Ugo Chavez, came to power. It singles out the doctrinal foundations of the Venezuela's international policy course aimed at establishing a multipolar, secure and just world order. The main attention is paid to the analysis of the particularities of the relations between Venezuela and its neighbors on the continent, as well as with the key actors in the current global affairs — the United States, China and Russia. The article draws the conclusion that in a relatively short time Venezuela has turned into one of significant players on the global stage.

Keywords: Venezuela, Ugo Chavez, multipolar world, integration, ALBA, Cuba, United States, China, Russia, strategic partnership.

Prokhorenko I.L. Latin America: Experiments with Structuring Transnational Political Spaces

The article examines the experience and models of structuring of transnational political spaces in Latin America and identifies the main actors of this process — both regional and external. The analysis of the major trends of the last decades is accompanied by a historical excursus which helps understand and evaluate factors which favor/hinder the integration processes at regional and subregional levels. The analysis of different projects of economic and political integration in the region raises the question whether Latin America can be hypothetically considered an international political region (a certain form of transnational political space), or the Latin American countries are increasingly drawn to the orbit of other emerging political spaces (subregional and biregional).

Keywords: Latin America, political space, transnational political space, regional integration, international political region.

Arutyunova M.A. Language Policy and Status of the Russian Language in the USSR and Post-Soviet States

The paper gives an overview of the particularities of language policy in the USSR and the post-Soviet states. The analysis reveals the complex relations between the official language of the USSR and the national languages of the Union Republics and demonstrates the importance of language diversity and national identity. The paper identifies the key factors that determine the status and the particularities of usage of the Russian and national languages in these countries and studies the mutual influence of the state and language policies. The language policy in the post-Soviet states is perceived to be linked to the status of the Russian language and the challenges that it faces. The paper stresses out that the countries of the former Soviet Union will still have a lot in common in the future, as far as language situation is concerned.

Keywords: Post-Soviet space, language policy, language situation, national policy, multinational state, national identity, problem of languages, linguistic pluralism, national language, state language, official language, language of interethnic communication, native language, linguo-cultural community.

Surchina S.I. Policy of the Russian Federation in the Field of Non-Proliferation of Fissile Materials

The proliferation of fissile materials remains one of the topical issues on the international security agenda. The international community has been trying to bring the illicit trafficking of fissile materials under the system of effective control, with the Russian Federation playing a leading role in this process. The paper examines the main approaches of the Russian Federation to resolving the problem of the proliferation of fissile materials at the international level, and provides an analysis of the agreements reached in this sphere. It focuses specifically on the importance of the Russian-American arrangements, the signing of which has demonstrated the substantial contribution of the Russian Federation to the process of nuclear disarmament.

Keywords: Russian Federation, fissile materials, nuclear non-proliferation, Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, International Atomic Energy Agency, Russian-American relations.

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