

SUMMARIES

***Sidorova M.M.* The “Asian Program” of the Russian Government: Past and Present**

The East has topped the foreign policy agenda several times in the Russian history. Despite the fact that the “Big Politics” was being made in Europe, the country leadership never neglected its interests in Asia. Moreover, at critical – from the perspective of internal development – points it repeatedly undertook strategic measures aimed at “advancing eastward”. The largest endeavor of such kind was the “Great Asian Program” of the Emperor Nicholas II. This paper examines the steps eastward made at the junction of XIX and XX centuries and their underlying motivations. Such an analysis is highly relevant nowadays when the Russian government is facing the challenges which look almost identical to those that it dealt with 100 years ago.

Keywords: Russia, Asia-Pacific, national interests, geopolitics, “Great Asian Program”, foreign policy, relocation.

***Batyuk V.I.* The U.S. Defense Policy in the Asia-Pacific under the Obama Administration**

The shift of the global economic power towards Asia-Pacific has been accompanied by the exacerbation of the issues related to ensuring military-strategic stability in this part of the world, where the United States continue to play the pivotal role. The paper examines the U.S. defense policy in the Asia-Pacific under the Obama administration and explores the American political and military establishment’s perceptions of the national security challenges and threats located within the sphere of control of the Pacific Command. It also identifies the main dimensions of strengthening ties with the U.S. traditional allies, managing relations with the rising powers, and transformation and rearmament of the PACOM. Special attention is paid to studying the perception of the growth of the Chinese military power and the main constraints that can hinder the successful protection of the U.S. interests in Asia-Pacific.

Keywords: Asia-Pacific, United States, the Obama administration, defense policy, national security strategy, Pacific Command, arms race.

***Andrianov V.L.* Strengthening of China’s Standing in Asia-Pacific: Potential and Limits**

China’s strengthened sovereignty and its growing economic and military-political potential have been making a multifold and increasingly visible impact on the development dynamics and balance of power both regionally – in the East Asia, and globally. Rapid rise of China has raised serious concerns among the political and business elites not only in neighbor countries, but also in remote states across the globe, primarily, the United States. The launch of the “return to

Asia” by the Barack Obama administration policy raises several questions. How will China respond to the emerging challenges? What is the potential and limits of the expansion of its influence in the region? How high is the probability of establishment of regional security framework based on the anti-Chinese alliance? This paper provides answers to these and many other critical questions related to the role of China in the “Mediterranean of the XXI Century”.

Keywords: China, Asia-Pacific, “ASEAN + 1”, U.S.-China relations, China-Japan relations, integration processes, regional security.

Streltsov D.V. Japan between East Asian and Trans-Pacific Regionalism

The paper examines the institutional aspects of Japan’s participation in the processes of economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region. The Japanese approach is being analyzed from the perspective of the dichotomy between Trans-Pacific and East Asian regionalism. Special attention is paid to the practical outcomes of Tokyo’s strategy of signing preferential bilateral and multilateral trade and economic partnership agreements, including the “Big Three” format – Japan, China, and South Korea. The paper also raises questions about Japan’s participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The conclusion is drawn that the Japanese inclusive strategy of parallel engagement in multiple formats of economic integration with maximum number of partners conforms to the logic of the “open regionalism”.

Keywords: Japan, economic integration, East Asian Community, the “Big Three”, economic partnership agreement, Trans-Pacific Partnership, open regionalism.

Suslina S.S., Samsonova V.G. South Korea in a Changing Architecture of Political and Economic Relations in the Asia-Pacific

Since the beginning of the XXI century the Asia-Pacific region has seen the emergence of a new architecture of political and economic relations driven by rapid shifts in balance of power between regional actors. The acceleration of the trend towards a comprehensive and deep integration has been accompanied by the exacerbation of the struggle for leadership. This paper examines the role played in the process by the Republic of Korea – one of the most dynamic countries of the North-East Asia, Asia-Pacific, and the world as a whole. It provides an assessment of the South Korea’s prospects as a regional power, as well as of a potential role that it can play in the achievement of the Russian foreign policy in the Far East.

Keywords: Asia Pacific, South Korea, Korean peninsula, Northeast Asia, integration processes, free trade agreements, globalization, regionalization.

Zhebin A.Z. DPRK: Time to Change?

This paper examines latest developments in the DPRK and the major problems facing the country’s new leader Kim Jong Un. The North Korean leadership has managed to ensure political stability and smoothen a power

succession process after Kim Jong Il's death even in the complicated domestic and international environment, but the poor economic development and food problem remain major challenges for the regime. The DPRK will hardly be encouraged to abandon its nuclear weapons in the wake of the Libyan war. The military-first policy proved to be successful so far in terms of achieving its objectives – retaining power, maintaining political and social stability, and repelling external threats. However, Kim Jong Un's call to build a "prosperous nation" may demand a re-allocation of limited resources from military to civilian sectors of economy.

Keywords: DPRK, Kim Jong Un, power succession, regime stability, reforms, nuclear problem, Six-Party Talks.

Lebedeva N.B. India's Drive towards Asia Pacific: Challenges and Prospects

The paper examines the Eastern policies of India – a geographically peripheral country that does not have a direct access to the Pacific ocean, but has already become a key element of the regional architecture of political and economic relations. Primary attention is paid to the examination of the evolution of the "Look East Policy" launched by the Indian prime-minister N. Rao in 1991 and its role in India's eastward advancement. The paper identifies the spectrum of Indian regional interests, as well as the impact of the Chinese factor and the political-strategic shifts in Asia-Pacific caused by the adoption of the "America's Pacific Century" doctrine by the United States on the Indian policies. It also tackles the main issues pertaining to the possible accession of India to the APEC.

Keywords: India, "Look East Policy", Asia-Pacific, ASEAN, East Asian Community, APEC, China, United States.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marina M. Sidorova – PhD (History), Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Security Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (e-mail: editor.fmp@yandex.ru).

Vladimir I. Batyuk – Doctor of Sciences (History), Leading Research Fellow at the Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (e-mail: ctas@inbox.ru).

Victor L. Andrianov – PhD (History), Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Associate Professor at the Chair of Regional Studies, Faculty of World Politics, Lomonosov Moscow State University (e-mail: vikand@yandex.ru).

Dmitriy V. Streltsov – Doctor of Science (History), Head of the Chair of Oriental Studies at Moscow State Institute (University) of International Affairs (MGIMO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation; Chairman of Association of Japanese Studies (e-mail: d.streltsov@inno.mgimo.ru).

Svetlana S. Suslina – Doctor of Science (Economics), Leading Research Fellow at the Center for Korean Studies, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (e-mail: Suslina.SS@mail.ru).

Victoria G. Samsonova – PhD (Economics), Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Korean Studies, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (e-mail: vikapak@yandex.ru).

Aleksandr Z. Zhebin – PhD (Political Science), Head of Centre for Korean Studies, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (e-mail: zhebin@ifes-ras.ru).

Nina B. Lebedeva – PhD (History), Leading Research Fellow at the Center for Indian Studies, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (e-mail: indology@inbox.ru).