

## Abstracts and Keywords

**Ekaterina NAROCHNITSKAYA**

### **THE CRIMEAN ISSUE: OFFICIAL FRENCH POLICY UNDER CRITICISM FROM DOMESTIC ELITES**

**Abstract.** *De jure* recognition of Crimea as a part of Russia's territory is not on the agenda of political discussions in France. Or, a noticeable part of French society, including its elite groups, does not share the vision of Ukrainian and Crimean events built on anti-Russian postulates. The Euro-Atlantic policy, greatly endorsed by the official leadership of the country and its dominant elites, invites skepticism and criticism not only within business environment, but also from French political, diplomatic, military and expert circles. Moreover, controversy on these issues highlights a new ideological division that is pushing back the classic left-right cleavage.

**Keywords:** *Crimea's reunification with Russia, Crimean referendum 2014, Crimean events, Ukrainian conflict, French position on the Crimean issue, foreign policy of France, "annexation of Crimea", "New Cold War".*

**Eliseo BERTOLASI**

### **ITALY — CRIMEA: HISTORY AND MODERNITY**

**Abstract.** *On 18 May 2016, in Venice, the Council of the Veneto Region was the first institution in the European Union that recognized the reunification of Crimea with Russia. This resolution paved the way for the same action by other Italian regional institutions: on 29 June 2016 in Genoa, the Council of the Liguria Region approved the recognition of the new Crimean status; on 5 July, was the turn of the Lombardia Region. It is no coincidence that Veneto and Liguria have taken this step, but there are very specific historical reasons. Crimea in the Middle Ages hosted Venetian and Genoese colonies.*

**Keywords:** *Crimea, Veneto, Liguria, Venetian colonies, Genoese colonies, Lega party (League party, Northern League).*

**Ulrike REISNER**

### **POLITICAL NARRATIVES ON CRIMEA IN GERMAN LANGUAGE MEDIA**

**Abstract.** *Political narratives on Crimea in German Language Media have been subjected to discourse analysis using the method of fractal description developed by the author. The analysis of 720 headlines in five leading media of Germany, Switzerland and Austria (2014 and 2019) has revealed that Crimea-related reporting was inconsistent and showed remarkably little substance in the facts. A long list of important questions in connection with the 2014 events have not been even asked by German-language media. A classification of the events in Crimea into large subject areas of contemporary historical, political and geostrategic nature is still almost completely lacking.*

**Keywords:** *Crimea, 2014 events in Crimea, political narratives, German-language media, fractal decomposition, interpretation of Russian policy, sanctions against Russia.*

**Natalia TRAVKINA, Vladimir VASILIEV**

### **DEEPENING CRISIS OF THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM: CAUSES, SIGNS AND CONSEQUENCES**

**Abstract.** *The most important background element of a profound crisis of the US political system has been the steady decline of the American public confidence in government. Fundamental changes have occurred in the mechanism used in Washington to adopt major reforms and other initiatives, which are now carried out exclusively on a one-party basis. In turn, this further reinforces political polarization, leading to a triumph of destructive “zero-sum games” when the ruling party’s objective boils down to dismantling the legacy left by the opposing party. All that has become particularly vivid under the Trump administration in 2017–2019.*

**Keywords:** *US political system, public trust in government, duopoly, polarization, authoritarianism, impeachment, electoral college, decision-making.*

**Petr YAKOVLEV**

### **THE TIME OF EUROPEAN DISCONTENT: THE EU’S CHANGING FRAMEWORK**

**Abstract.** *While 2019 marked the beginning of a new phase in the history of the European Union, its specific political and economic markers are still not quite clear. International relations of EU member states are also undergoing radical change, and regional and global alliances are being reset. In fact, the whole domestic and foreign policy framework, which has existed in Europe for several decades, is essentially changing. That was clearly demonstrated by the elections to the European Parliament. The new EU leadership will have to find adequate responses to numerous economic, social, diplomatic and military challenges.*

**Keywords:** *European Union, consequences of global crisis, elections to European Parliament, political fragmentation, economic problems, geopolitics, European army.*

**Anton KRUTIKOV****“UNTIL OUR GOVERNMENT IS STRONGER...”. BOLSHEVIKS AND THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL QUESTION IN 1917-1923**

**Abstract.** *The upheavals of the Russian revolution and Civil War had a decisive influence on the development of the Ukrainian nation. Given modern efforts to free Ukraine “from imperial layers”, it is particularly useful to address real historical experience, namely that of the Bolsheviks, who implemented their own Ukrainian nation building project in 1917-1923. Generated by the party-state machine of the RSFSR, it was a cultural dimension of the “battle for Ukraine” and determined the character of Ukrainian statehood for many decades.*

**Keywords:** *Ukraine, Ukrainian question, Russian revolution, civil war, Ukrainization, national policy, national identity.*

**Tatiana VOLOKITINA****A DATE THAT CHANGED NATIONAL HISTORY. FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVENTS OF 9 SEPTEMBER 1944 IN BULGARIA**

**Abstract.** *The article dwells on the landmark event history which opened up the transitional period of popular democracy and Soviet-style political regime in Bulgaria. Estimates of what happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1944 have varied depending on situation. Up until the collapse of the communist regime in November 1989, they remained within the official ideological framework. Our time, while opening up the possibility of an unbiased historical research, generates a temptation of new myth-making.*

**Keywords:** *September 9, 1944; People's Uprising of 9 September, 9 September Coup d'état; revolution, political and scientific discussions, current historiographical situation.*

**Ella ZADOROZHNYUK****THE BRITISH GEOPOLITICIAN'S VIEWS ON THE SLAVIC QUESTION. FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HALFORD JOHN MACKINDER'S “DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND REALITY”**

**Abstract.** *In H.J. Mackinder's book “Democratic Ideals and Reality,” published 100 years ago, the term “Slavic question” is absent. However, the British geopolitician noted Eastern Europe and the Slavic peoples inhabiting it in his famous spell about the key to domination over the world. The belt of states on the map between the defeated Germany and the revolutionary Russia was identified as “strategic Heartland.” Mackinder proposed to link the solution of the Slavic question with promotion of “democratic ideals” in these countries, allowing also measures of coercion.*

**Keywords:** *H.J. Mackinder, democratic ideals, Slavic question, Eastern Europe, Heartland, Treaty of Versailles, subregions.*

**Vladimir KONDRATEV****DEINDUSTRIALIZATION ISSUES IN THE UNITED STATES**

**Abstract.** *According to conventional wisdom accepted at the end of the 20th century, the United States had to move to a “post-industrial” economy, transfer production offshore and concentrate on research, software and finance. However, over time, real national costs of that strategy have become obvious. Not only has the U.S. manufacturing sector lost 5 million jobs in 20 years. Its persistent pattern of weakness is indicated by weak productivity growth, production increases in just a few industries, decreasing numbers of small and medium-sized enterprises, shortages of skilled personnel, expanding trade deficits in advanced technologies and increased risks for defense sector.*

**Keywords:** *deindustrialization, post-industrial economy, offshoring, manufacturing industries, competitiveness, productivity.*