

A b s t r a c t s

Heinz Timmermann

The EU's strategy towards its "new neighbours", Ukraine and Belarus

It is in the EU's own vital interests that there should be stability in its three "new neighbours" – Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldavia. A great deal of thought is therefore being given to the question of how the ties between these countries and the expanded Union can be strengthened. A long-term membership perspective, which is favoured by Ukraine and Moldavia, is being left open. A strategy is being developed which has at its core offers of closer economic cooperation extending as far as step-by-step inclusion in a pan-European economic sphere. The intention now is to develop country-specific action plans incorporating goals, standards, schedules, and mechanisms to ensure regular monitoring. Within this framework, the EU is doing all it can to avoid competing with its partner Russia in efforts to integrate these countries.

Martin Brusic

From eastern to southeastern enlargement?

The European Union and the Western Balkans

The article analyzes the European Union's contemporary policy towards the Balkans in relation to the 2004 enlargement round. An accession process for the "Western Balkans" that follows the model of the ongoing enlargement seems to entail a number of frictions and problems. Enlargement towards the Southeast is not a simple continuation of eastward enlargement, but will change the nature of the EU. The foreseeable internal differentiation of the Union may also make possible a flexible integration of potential candidate states.

Thilo Bodenstein, Gerald Schneider

Buying reforms, dictating opening?

Determinants of foreign trade policy in Eastern Europe

Measuring the level of a country's openness in foreign trade is considered to be a difficult undertaking. Data on the level of globalization provide no more than an inadequate picture of the relative level of openness of foreign trade in the states undergoing transformation. This gap has now been filled by the new ELITE data set covering the years 1993-2000. Two opposing tendencies can be identified. On the one hand, transformation states liberalized the ways in which they regulate trade. During the same period, however, they increased the level of protection afforded to trade in capital. The most important factors for liberalization are the kind of regime change and the degree of democratization. Democracies turn out to be more open than autocracies. On the other hand, economic causes of reform such as the scale of the transformation crisis or the level of international financial aid are of very little significance for reform in the sphere of foreign trade.

Susi K. Frank

“Internal colonization” and the *frontier* myth

Constructions of space in Russia and the USA

The interpretation of the history of Russian expansion as “internal colonization” is a persistent topos of Russian historiography that has consistently resurfaced and been endowed with new semantic nuances from the middle of the 19th century up until the present day. Russian historians substantiate and justify this concept by referring to the underlying geographical-spatial circumstances. A comparison with American constructions of national space demonstrates that inner-continental colonization processes have by no means always and everywhere been interpreted along these lines. The article explains why the interpretation from an internal Russian standpoint of the history of Russian colonization has taken precisely this path.

Pawel Polian

A new homeland

The four waves of Russian emigration in the 20th century

From the October Revolution until the dissolution of the USSR, emigration for political or ethnic reasons was an integral part of Soviet history. Immigration, on the other hand, was for the USSR relatively unimportant. Four waves of emigration can be distinguished. The first wave of emigrants found a new home in Europe, and later the USA became the preferred destination. Europe has only become more significant again as a destination for emigrants from the Russian Federation since the end of the Soviet Union.