

A b s t r a c t s

Alexander Warkotsch The Central Asian regimes and Islam

The dissolution of the USSR led to a blossoming of Islam in Central Asia. The political elites instrumentalized religion as a source of legitimation. Today their relationship to Islam is ambivalent, and radical groups calling for an Islamist model of society are profiting from the difficult economic situation, corruption, and repression. The state apparatuses in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are reacting with even harsher repression. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tadzhikistan are increasingly joining in the struggle against the "Wahabbi threat". After 11 September 2001, western criticism of the human rights situation under regimes that are useful for the "war on terror" in Afghanistan became extremely muted. This strengthens the dictators and autocrats in power in Central Asia.

Zoltan Barany Potemkin at work: military reform in Russia

Although the Russian president and his government have repeatedly declared the completion of radical military reform, this article argues that the sort of transformative defense reform the country needs has scarcely begun in Russia. Moreover, the article contends, the prospects of such reform are bleak owing to a number of political and socioeconomic obstacles. The most important reasons for the absence of reform, however, have been and will continue to be political. On the one hand, several factors prevent the president from imposing sweeping changes on the military. The most potent of these lies on the other side of the civil-military divide: the generals' active opposition to reforms they view as bad for themselves and bad for Russia. Ultimately the problem is rooted in the post-1993 failure of Russia's democratization process, which has prevented the creation of balanced civilian control over the armed forces.

Volker Groht

Catching up via direct investment? Hopes and obstacles in East Central Europe

The integration of the Central and East European countries into the EU is connected with a strategy designed to initiate a catching-up process by opening their markets. The new member states have received little foreign direct investment (FDI), which contradicts the neoclassical argument that more foreign capital flows into low capital-intensive economies. The contribution of FDI to economic growth and to the development of the domestic sector through spillovers is small. The FDI of western enterprises has reached its limit, and as soon as the privatizations have been completed this important reason for FDI will no longer be operative. The experience of the EU's southern enlargement confirms this analysis. There is no reason to expect FDI-driven economic development in the new EU member states.

Christian Hufen

Being Russian as a profession: notes on Fedor Stepun

It was pure coincidence that Max Weber gave his lecture on 'Science as a Profession' on the same evening as the Bolsheviks seized power in Petrograd. The philosopher Fedor Stepun (1884-1965), a former interlocutor of Weber's, witnessed this important event in world history. In exile in Germany from 1922 onwards, Stepun worked as a publicist and sociologist and analysed this experience, conducting lively exchanges with creative artists of the Russian emigration and as part of German academic life. In the interwar period, Stepun put forward a critical analysis of Weber's value-free science postulate and developed this into an understanding of himself as a transnational political intellectual in Europe.

Michael John

The power of the light muses: musical comedy films and Soviet ideology

Soviet musical comedy films of the 1930s used the American Hollywood musical as their point of reference in terms of visual language and plot construction. This article examines dramaturgical similarities between *Backstage Musical Footlight Parade* (1933) and the adaptation of this genre in the Soviet musical *Tsirk* (1936). The main focus is on strategies for conveying ideological messages and drawing the audience into the film. Hollywood used the audience's own imagination in order to get its ideological subtexts across. In the Soviet musical, the demonstrative way in which symbolic gestures were staged meant that the spectator was unable to participate in the film text.

Magdalena Marszałek, Matthias Schwartz
An imagined Ukraine: on cultural topography in Polish and Russian literature

During the last decade, Ukrainian themes have been undergoing a revival in Polish and Russian literature. Ukraine has once again become a place that serves as a surface onto which cultural self-definitions can be projected. This process takes up cultural topographies from Romanticism, which imagined Ukraine as a much fought-over and dangerous borderland on the edge of imperial territory. This highly poeticized region, which is now situated beyond the state borders of both Poland and Russia, is ideally suited for the purposes of postmodern diversification and playful regionalization. In Polish literature, the Western Ukraine frequently appears in the context of an intertextual appeal to the myth of a multicultural Galicia and the revived idea of Central Europe. In Russian literature there is an aestheticization of the Orientalized Crimea as a new "training ground for world culture", and of rural Ukraine as a mystical setting for grotesque and supernatural experiences.

Bogusław Bakula
NaGłos and Struktury Trzecie: the spoken literary journals of the Polish underground

During the 1980s, the independent cultural scene in Poland produced an unconventional form of communication which managed to get round the state censorship in a cunning way. In Krakow and Posen readings were organized, under the protection of the Catholic church and in universities, by authors who had been publishing their work since the late 1970s with underground and exiled publishing houses, mostly using pseudonyms. Their texts, which were presented "out loud" (*nagłos*) and in "third structures" (*trzecie struktury*), were printed immediately after the readings, so that the state censors were unable to intervene. The editors of these spoken literary journals, together with the authors who gave the readings, created a communication space between different cultural spheres. In doing so, they also paved the way for the breach made in the state's publication monopoly in the final phase of the communist regime.