

A b s t r a c t s

Heinz Theisen

A third way for Europe: the cultural enlargement of the European Union

The European Union, an organization shaped by western culture, is planning to expand into the Orthodox and Islamic cultural spaces. This will turn it into a multicultural union. Cultural overstretch could lead to a loss of the we-feeling needed for the Union to maintain its capacity to act. On the other hand, the soft power represented by the Union's power of attraction should be used to help stabilize Eastern and Southeastern Europe. This dilemma cannot be resolved by the either/or option of full membership; different gradings within zones of integration, association, and cooperation are a more realistic option. Cultural affiliation should play a much more important role in decisions about which country is assigned to which zone. There is a need for greater awareness of differentiations and transitions in the field of intercultural teaching and learning.

Eckart D. Stratenschulte

Ukraine: „Action!“

The action plans of the EU's Neighbourhood Policy

The European Commission and Council are endeavouring, by means of their European Neighbourhood Policy, to offer countries in Eastern Europe, in the Caucasus, and on the southern shores of the Mediterranean a closer relationship with the EU that does not go as far as full membership. The action plans the Commission has now presented for Ukraine and Moldova are intended to be the central element in this policy. However, these plans do not do what they are supposed to do, i.e. set out clear priorities in terms of policies and timescales and establish conditionality. The plans could more accurately be described as fairly comprehensive lists of tasks to be carried out by the partner states, without anything being demanded in return from the EU and without any clear sequence for the steps to be taken. There is a danger that the action plans will not be able to meet the expectations to which they have given rise.

Anneli Ute Gabanyi

A perspective on a perspective:

Moldova and the EU's new Neighbourhood Policy

In 2007, when Romania is scheduled to join the European Union, the adjoining Republic of Moldova will become an immediate EU neighbour. This country is perceived in largely negative terms: a frozen conflict with the secessionist province of Transnistria, fragile statehood, a deficient identity, economic dependency, imperfect democracy, and major social problems. This article attempts to answer the question of whether the EU's Neighbourhood Policy is the right strategy to assist Moldova in conflict resolution and in implementing its Europeanization strategy.

Sebastian Gerhardt

Beyond Warsaw:

Polish policy towards Polish communities abroad

The main focus of Polish policy towards Polish communities abroad is on support for Poles in Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. In spite of financial difficulties, the funds available to the state-subsidized organizations for Polish communities abroad have increased since 1989. The most important actor in this policy field is not the Foreign Ministry, but the Senate and institutions answerable to the Senate. This secondary foreign policy has repeatedly come under pressure, but it has not been abandoned.

Hagen Ettner

Federalism: To be or not to be?

Sverdlovsk region in Russia's federal structure

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia became a federal state and power was redistributed from the centre "downwards". After becoming President and again after the tragedy in Beslan, Putin made significant changes to these arrangements. The article analyzes Sverdlovsk region as an example of how the subjects of the federation were able to increase their powers in the 1990s and Putin is now recentralizing power. Federalism in Russia is turning into pseudofederalism.

Jörg Rathmann

War and peace:

Lev Tolstoy's estate as a driving force in regional development

In the Tyula region, an initiative launched by the Lev Tolstoy State Museum and Estate at Yasnaya Polyana is helping to bring about a form of extensive regional cooperation that is unique in Russia. In 2004, after decades of conflict between the museum and a neighbouring chemical plant, the two parties drew up the Yasnaya Polyana Agreement, which commits them to working out a plan for long-term regional development. This cooperation could make it possible for the chemical plant to modernize, could make the region more attractive for tourists, and could pave the way for more small and medium-sized businesses to be set up there.

Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja

The Other:

the legacy of a Soviet pattern of interpretation

The Soviet Union's collective ideology left behind a conceptual division between Self and Other which is incompatible with a democratic political culture. Among the most dangerous aspects of this pattern of interpretation are its strong moral implications and the way in which it legitimizes the use of violence to get rid of any deviations from the norm. Soviet ideology treated the exclusion of the Other as a form of democratic self-governance. This article argues that this pattern of interpretation can only have a negative effect on the democratization process.

Wolfgang Eismann

Destroying the bridges:

arguments about a Yugoslavian novelist

The disintegration of the multinational Yugoslavian state has also led to disputes inspired by nationalism about the legacy of Ivo Andrić, the most significant Yugoslavian novelist. Numerous Croatian literary scholars see Andrić, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1961, as a Croat who occasionally strayed into the Serbian camp. Serbian scholars are concerned to preserve the image of Andrić as a purely Serbian writer, and Bosnian Muslims challenge this interpretation. The disputing parties forget that Andrić cannot be appropriated for nationalist purposes. His most important motif is the bridge, *The Bridge on the Drina*, the bridge that connects the national with the universal.