

## A b s t r a c t s

Gemma Pörzgen

In Search of Lost Competence

Russia Policy in the German Bundestag

Germany maintains close relations with Russia. But in the Bundestag, which plays an important role in foreign policy, there is a growing lack of competent personnel. A number of distinguished foreign policymakers are retiring at the end of this legislative term. Successors are nowhere to be seen. Although there is constant talk of internationalisation and globalisation, the parliamentary groups are having problems in recruiting foreign policy personnel. There are structural reasons for this. The parties' selection process favours domestic policymakers. Foreign policy is an unattractive career path. It is a long-term commitment and demands much time and effort. But individual representatives have shown that even in Russia policy the leeway for action is greater than is usually thought.

Andreas Heinemann-Grüder

Control Regime

Russia under Putin & Medvedev

Russia's political regime is distinguished by a new combination of well known strategies of legitimacy and techniques of rule that serve to control competition, political participation, and potential rivals. This control regime has learned from the strengths and weaknesses of authoritarian rule, it uses modern techniques of rule, and it is flexible. But unlike authoritarian regimes in Southeast Asia, the regime in Moscow is unable to modernise the country.

Inna Melnykovska, Rainer Schweickert

Motor of Europeanisation

NATO and Ukraine

NATO is to this day first and foremost a defensive alliance. But beyond classic notions of security policy, it has another potential. Unlike the European Union, it keeps the door open for new members from Eastern Europe and the southern Caucasus. Therefore, for states such as Ukraine, the incentive is greater to meet NATO's requirements. The alliance contributes to the establishment of democratic processes by making civilian control over the military a precondition to accession. And it promotes – starting with the arms sector – a market economy. This has also been the case in Ukraine since the Orange Revolution.

Jan Eichler, Nik Hynek

A Sense of Duty

Czechs to Afghanistan!

All of the East Central European states are participating in the international mission in Afghanistan. The Czech Republic even has its own regional Provincial Reconstruction Team in the fiercely contested province of Logar. Officially, the Czech government gives the same reasons for sending soldiers to Afghanistan as other NATO states. In fact, however, there can be no talk of Czech interests in the Hindu Kush. Instead, the point is to present the Czech Republic as a civilised state, which, by means of its presence in Afghanistan, proves its successful socialisation into the Western community of values.

Reinhold Vetter

So-So

A Balance of the Czech EU Presidency

The Czech EU presidency in the first half of 2009 was instructive. It made clear just how fragile Czech politics and how dubious the model of the semi-annual EU presidency are. Nonetheless, the Czech presidency was not completely without success. Czech politicians such as former Premier Mirek Topolánek performed valuable intermediary services on the world stage. And the EU presidency reinforced the country's Europeanisation.

Klaus Bachmann

Death to the Murderer!

On the Repressive Mentality in Poland

In Poland, unlike in Western Europe, repressive attitudes have grown since the 1960s. Many Poles support the death penalty, which, however, was abolished in 1998. Contrary to widespread assumptions, this repressiveness is unrelated to actual crime rates. Instead, it was the symptom of deeper uncertainties among citizens, who considered their country to be criminal. The economic upswing of recent years has enabled Poles to gain confidence in their country. Accordingly, supporters of the death penalty have also been forced onto the defensive.

Nadezhda A. Beliakova  
 Control, Cooptation, Cooperation  
 The Soviet State and the Orthodox Church

The Soviet Union built up a subtle system for the control and regimentation of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Council of Religious Affairs and the KGB played key roles. In addition to repression and discrimination against the faithful and priests, these agencies relied above all on cooptation and cooperation. The Orthodox Church became a part of Soviet foreign policy. In terms of domestic policy, the regime succeeded in integrating the church. Unlike the Catholic Church in Poland, the Orthodox Church in the Soviet Union was never an oppositional force. The Orthodox clergy allowed itself to be coopted and acted "in the spirit of statehood and patriotism".

Stefan Kube  
 Arsonist or Fireman?  
 Religious Communities and the Collapse of Yugoslavia

Religions are characterised by a fundamental ambivalence. They can stir up violence, but can also promote peace. Whether the violent or reconciliatory potential of religions is brought to bear in conflict situations depends on a number of endogenous and exogenous factors. The simple thesis according to which religions are always instrumentalised in conflict situations for political ends is problematic. This is seen in the role of religious communities in the collapse of Yugoslavia and the wars that followed.

Demyan Belyaev  
 "Puzzling Phenomena"  
 Heterodox-religious Subculture in Russia

Esoteric forms of religiosity have a long tradition in Russia. They flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries. Even in the Soviet era, they did not completely disappear. During perestroika, the heterodox-religious scene experienced a boom whose repercussions are still being felt: Around 45 percent of the population admits to having esoteric convictions. Often, these combine with Christian content to form an eclectic view of the world. The esoteric plays an important social role and is an economic factor.

Katharina Uhl, Alexa von Winning  
 Remembering without Memory  
 Religion and Identity in Tatarstan

In the Khrushchev era, the anti-religious campaigns experienced a high-water mark, but in the memoirs of the "thaw generation", religion hardly plays a role. Today, a renaissance can be observed in multi-confessional Tatarstan as well. Religion helps to perceive and assess contemporary social life. These purportedly religious values and ideas are connected to Soviet norms and practices.

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