

The History of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Contemporary Theories of International Relations

Zenonas Norkus

The paper explores the epistemic fruitfulness of the contemporary theories of modern relations for historical research about the relations between premodern polities. The author suggests to replace the concepts of “international system” and “international society” by the broader notions of “interpolity system” and that of “interpolity society”. It is demonstrated that A. Wendt’s thesis that in the premodern times international politics was dominated by the Hobbesian culture of anarchy disregards historical evidence about the “Lockean” realities of the dynastic politics in the medieval Europe and other places. The author also criticise H. Bull’s concept of international society because of its assumption that Westphalian peace treaty of 1648 was the date of birth of the international law and international society as historical reality. Paper includes a case study about the changing roles and challenges of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) as the subject of interpolity relations in XIII–XV centuries. It focuses on the rise of GDL from the polity playing the role of the barrier (but not that of buffer) polity, separating Central European and Eastern European interpolity systems and belonging to both of them, to the regional empire and suzerain polity of the Eastern European interpolity system by the early XVth century. However, Lithuanian hegemony in Eastern Europe lasted only very few years. After 1430, the Eastern European interpolity system was about to transform itself from the suzerain polity system into a multipolar sovereign interpolity system of the type that consolidated in the Central and Western Europe after 1648 and survived for 300 years. However, the political leadership of GDL failed to meet the challenge to maintain an emerging multipolar balance of power in this system.

Statesman: Pretension to Analysis of Concept

Alvydas Jokubaitis, Raimundas Lopata

The aim of the article is to reveal the origins and the meaning of *statesman*. Beside historical and philosophical aspects of subject, the enhanced attention is given to the tradition of Lithuanian political thought. The following questions are pursued to answer: on what the grounds did the concept of statesman become the part of Lithuanian political discourse? What are functional and valuable meanings of the concept? Political science debate is often the continuation of the political debate. Though the article does not aim to extend the latter. It is consciously desired the debate on statesmen raise to the theoretical level. The authors want to present what is the statesman and to highlight the distinction between statesman and politician.

The Contradiction between Liberalism and Democracy in the Perspective of Political Philosophy

Vaidotas Valantiejus

The main strategy of this article is to consider liberalism in contrast with democracy. The article argues that there is a tension between the principles of democratic homogeneity and liberal heterogeneity. Deontological liberalism accents formal and procedural aspects of liberal democracy. In this way the democratic *substantial* concept of equality is reduced to the *indifferent* concept of equal individual liberty. Thus the model of liberal democracy gives priority to liberalism, but not democracy. The article also argues that it is possible to draw the conceptual distinction between liberalism and democracy only if the question is considered as a critical framework of different philosophical discourses.

***Japan's Immigration Policy: Closed Front Door
and Performative Migration***

Daiva Repečkaitė

Among the so-called post-industrial countries Japan is exceptional with regard to immigration policy. Despite the supply of foreigners who would like to live and work in Japan, as well as the demand for their labour, the government succeeds to maintain its restrictive policy and construct a discourse which conceals the nature of labour migration to Japan. Based on academic literature on migration to Japan, as well as on qualitative research in Tokyo, conducted during the two-month-long fieldwork, this paper argues that the patterns in which the official discourse and the legal framework conceals labour migration push foreigners to craft their identities accordingly, and engage in “performative” migration, which, in turn, is met with suspicion from the government.

***The Evolution of Postcommunist State in the European Union:
Secure Future or the Pitfall of Development?***

Liutauras Gudžinskas

In this article the main attention will be devoted for the state and its place in postcommunist society. The state is the main institutional ensemble in political arena that directs our both political and everyday life, yet it itself is usually resilient for any radical changes even if it largely does not suffice the expectations of its citizenry. Firstly, it is considered the phenomenon of transformation of postcommunist state, its internal logic and essential causes that determined clear divergence of developmental paths in the postcommunist space. In other two chapters the attention will be paid for the development of postcommunist states after their accession in to the EU and for evolution of different trajectories. In the second part of the article the attention is paid to the development of postcommunist states after their accession in to the EU and for evolution of different trajectories. The evidence shows that the divide between “semi-core” and “semi-peripheral” countries in Central and Eastern Europe has become quite stable and may have its implications for the future.