

ABSTRACTS

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Palina Prysmakova. Why Does China Invest in Belarus? Billions of Loans from Perspective of Chinese Local Governments

Investment is good for a number of reasons. A wave of investment that the booming China spreads all over the world is recently felt in Belarus. China's National Government with its export-credit agencies came to Belarus offering billions in loans for development projects. The question remains, whose GDP and consumption level indeed benefit from the renovation of Belarusian infrastructure credited by China? This paper develops a new understanding of Belarus-China infrastructure projects. The relation between Chinese preferential loans for Belarus benefiting central government is quite vague and theoretical as compared to the explicit benefits for the separate local government officials and companies.

Keywords: China, Investment in Belarus, Economic Policy, Belarus-China Projects.

Dzmitry Isajonak (Dzmitry Isayonak), Tacciana Čyžova (Tatsiana Chyzhova). Evolution of Production Facilities' Privatisation Model in Belarus from 1990 to 2013: Background, Concepts, Results

The article deals with evolution of state property privatisation model in Belarus in 1990-2013. It describes preconditions and major historical stages of state property privatisation and evolution of views of authorities on privatization over the last 20 years. The history of Belarusian privatisation is the story of finding a compromise between the trends of the modern market economy and the idea of state regulation and social protection. It is concluded that Belarusian privatisation did not become a locomotive of market reforms, formation of proprietary class and big national capital. Therefore, it can currently be considered as the periphery of the market reforms in Belarus.

Keywords: Cooperatives, "People's Capitalism," Privatisation Programme, Nationalisation, State-Regulated Economy.

Aliaksandr Papko. Towards Predatory State? Origins and Mechanisms of State Officials' Extortion in Russia

The subject of this research is a particular aggressive kind of administrative corruption which has become a widespread phenomenon in Russia. Since 2003-2004, state officials have started to use the coercive tools given them by the state to take over citizen's business and property. Based on the data provided by Russian anti-corruption experts, human rights defenders and the police statistics, the author of this article tries to reconstruct the main actors involved in the state racket, main mechanisms of its functioning and the main causes which produced this phenomenon. The author argues that the generous rights to extract corruption rents have been given to the state officials with the purpose of strengthening the "power vertical," ensuring the loyalty of elites and manageability of the country. The author provides statistical data giving the evidence of the increased arbitrary activity of law enforcement agencies in Russia. He also describes how the predatory corruption affects Russian economy, society and the state administration itself.

Keywords: Russian Politics, Corruption, Abuse of Power, Law Enforcement Agencies, Russian Elites.

HISTORY OF IDEAS

Alieh Dziarnovič (Aleh Dziarnovich). In Search of a Homeland: "Litva/Lithuania" and "Rus'/Ruthenia" in the Modern Belarusian Historiography

In contemporary Belarusian historiography (since the end of the 1980s) the question of political and ethnic composition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania became one of the basic themes. The main debatable issues are: 1) Location of the "annalistic Lithuania" (Mikola Jermalovič's conception, its critics and adherents, Aliaksandr Kraŭcevič); 2) Correlation between the terms "Žemaitija" (Samogitia) and "Litva" (Lithuania), Paval Urban; 3) Evolution of concepts "Litva" and "Rus'" during the thirteenth-sixteenth centuries (Aliaksandr Rohalieŭ, Michail Spirydonau, Viachaslaŭ Nasievič, Oleg Łatyszzonek, Alieŭ Biely's "Civilisation concept"); 4) Ethnic meaning of the terms (Ihar Čakvin and Paviel Cieraškovič, Hieorhi Haliencanka, Viachaslaŭ Nasievič, discussion between Ihar Marzaliuk and Hienadz Sa-hanovič). The very fact of active discussions on "Litva" and "Rus'" problem proves that Belarusian history of the late Middle Ages and early Modern Time can be understood as interaction of these two factors. Exclusion of one of these factors from Belarusian history will make it absolutely different.

Keywords: Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Belarusian Historiography, Ethnicity, History of Ideas, Historical Lithuania (Litva).

REVIEWS

Aliaksandr Paharely. A Long-Expected and Timely Book

Book review: *Chomič/Khomich (2011). The Territory and State Borders of Belarus in the Twentieth Century: From Incomplete Ethnic Identity and Foreign Arbitrary Rule to the Modern Status Quo.*

Keywords: Political History, State Boundaries, Belarusian National Movement, Statehood, National Self-Determination.

Aliaksandr Paharely. A Perpetual Borderland

Book review: *Savchenko (2009). Belarus – A Perpetual Borderland.*

Keywords: History of Belarus, Belarusian Studies Abroad, Frontier, Research Stereotypes, Belarusian Politics.

Michael C. Hickey. Jewish Life in Belarus: The Final Decade of the Stalin Regime (1944-1953)

Book review: *Leonid Smilovitsky (2014). Jewish Life in Belarus: The Final Decade of the Stalin Regime (1944-1953).*

Keywords: Belarusian Jewish Community, History of Jews, Stalin Regime, Post-War History of Belarus.

Liuboŭ Kozik (Liubou Kozik). The Myths and Symbolism of Poland's Independence Day

Book review: *Biskupski (2012). Independence Day. Myth, Symbol, and the Creation of Modern Poland.*

Keywords: Poland, National Narrative, Memory Politics, Identity Politics, Commemoration Days.

Andrej Krot (Andrei Krot). Roman Catholic Clergy: The Path to Belarus

Book review: *Traciak/Tratsiak (2013). Belarusian Catholic Clergy and the Origins of Social and Cultural Identification of Belarusians.*

Keywords: Catholic Clergy, Belarusian National Movement, National Revival, National Identity, History of Religion.