

Rethinking Interests and Preferences within the EU-Russia Relations in the Context of the Ukrainian Crisis

Dorin I. DOLGHÍ

Abstract. *The present paper proposes an inquiry regarding the shaping interests and preferences between EU and Russia in their bilateral relations, focusing on the patterns of convergence and divergence. Even if there were two decades of a constructive approach, the evolutions after the Vilnius Summit in November 2013 and the crisis in Ukraine have triggered different reactions. Within the reformulations of interests, it is clear that the current opposing views among the participating actors indicate the need for a major geopolitical reconfiguration of the “shared neighborhood” as well as the relations between EU and Russia. The patterns of Cold War interactions seems to be valuable but not necessarily in military terms, but in a more diversified and less predictable expression of different sectors, with a great emphasis on the political and economic ones.*

Keywords: *European Union, Russia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, security*

The ‘Common Neighbourhood’ after the Vilnius Summit

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Abstract. *The present paper analyses the importance of the Vilnius Summit for the Eastern Partnership and its impact on the ‘common neighbourhood’. By ‘common neighbourhood’ we refer to the six former Soviet republics residing between the EU and the Russian Federation, namely: Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and which are included in the Eastern Partnership initiative. The article undertakes a comparative analysis of the evolution of the six former Soviet republics within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, highlighting the differences between the levels of rapprochement with the EU of these countries on the eve of the Vilnius Summit. The research demonstrates that despite the negative perceptions of many scholars towards the third Eastern Partnership Summit, the aftermath of the Vilnius event has proved the contrary.*

Keywords: *The Eastern Partnership, ‘common neighbourhood’, the Vilnius Summit, Russian foreign policy*

Post-Soviet Transition and the Issue of Societal Security in the Republic of Moldova

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Abstract. *“Societal security” is the umbrella term for efforts to cope with modern security threats to society and the concept as such has been formulated to account for the*

phenomenon of societal identity and cohesion as sources of instability. The analysis of the issue of societal security in the case of the Republic of Moldova reveals the fact that the society has not yet overcome the stage of transition from a crumb of the “Soviet people” with a local specific character to the so-called “society of the Republic of Moldova”. In other words, the approach to the issue of societal security in this country is impossible if the essence of the specific character of the transition period in the Republic is not taken into account. The present article is an attempt to outline the factors that obstruct the process of consolidating the Moldovan society taking in consideration the particularity of the process of post-Soviet transition in the Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: *Transition, Societal Security, Identity, Nation-Building, Demographic Changes, Migration*

The Common European Army Project between the National Defence Preferences of the Member States and the Geostrategic Challenges at the Eastern Borders of the EU

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Abstract. *This paper tries to explain the failures and prospects of a common European army project under the constraints imposed by the national preferences of the Treaties’ Guardians, the Member States of the European Union, and the conditions imposed by the external pressures coming from the regional and global geostrategic environments, particularly at the Eastern borders of the EU. The paper advocates the necessity of restarting the debate surrounding the development of a strong European common defence policy. This relates to the precarious geopolitical situation at the Eastern (the Ukraine-Russia conflict) and Southern borders (the threat of the Islamic State) of the EU and also to economic and financial reasons such as a better management of capabilities and assets under a common European framework. However, the difficulties for achieving such goals are not to be underestimated. This paper does not advocate the military option when dealing with crises such as the Ukrainian one. However, it emphasizes that the current defense capabilities of the European Union are rather symbolical. The radicalization of Russian foreign policy and Kremlin’s erratic behavior toward the West are significant signs of concerns. If the European Union wants to deal with such an actor, it has to be prepared both politically and militarily. The paper examines these questions in two parts: part 1 focuses on the question of the national preferences (the preferences of the Member States) in the field of security and defence; part 2 approaches the EU’s strategic environment at the Eastern borders of the European Union.*

Keywords: *Common European Army, European Union, Member States, Russia, CSDP, geostrategy, national preferences*

Cross-border Cooperation and Mass Media Influence. Russian-Estonian Border

Maria GĂVĂNECI

Abstract. *My intention in this paper is to analyze the state of trans-border relations between Russia and Estonia, by looking at Pskov oblast case. I will correlate mass media representations with the regional social and administrative evolutions in order to see how the discourses fluctuates between a securitizant and desecuritizant approach, according to the central actors influence. I will show that a desecuritizant discursive can be blocked by the geopolitical interests of the core actors. I will than show how the mass media is still built on old stereotypes and even when cooperation is promotes, the stereotypes and nationalist feelings are still present.*

Keywords: *Russia, European Union, borders, identity, discourse.*

Key Trends of Social Evolution of Romanian Speakers in Northern Bukovina

Liubov MELNYCHUK

Abstract. *The issue of national minorities is one of the most vital and topical in relations between Ukraine and Romania nowadays. The article deals with the problem of protecting the rights of Romanian speakers' national minorities in socio-political, educational, language and other walks of life on territory of Northern Bukovina. The article discloses the wide range of topics: historical background; Romanians involved in Ukrainian politics; key trends concerning the rights of national communities to study in their native language; problems and prospects broadcasting for Romanian-speaking people in the Northern Bukovina; culture enhancement. Romanian-speaking minority's rights enabling this ethnic group to preserve and develop their national identity on the territory of Northern Bukovina in Ukraine.*

Keywords: *Romanian speakers, national minority, Northern Bukovina, Ukraine, Chernivtsi region, social evolution, rights, dual citizenship, Ion Popescu, Alhip Rosca, Mikhail Bauer, Gennadiy Fedoriak, George Tymish.*

Determinations and Conditionality in the Context of the Migration in the European Union

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Abstract. *In the context of globalization migration issue as a priority on the political agenda of various countries involves a series of tests and conditionalities in the*

European Union. The link between migration and security should be seen as a whole by the dichotomy of natives / migrants. Cultural differences and ethnic conflicts have acquired new meanings and significance in the international environment characterized by political and societal dissolution of traditional structures. After the Cold War, issues such as migration appeared on the agenda of debates about European security. This issue touches the basic concepts such as borders and border policy, security and identity. If migration is not a new phenomenon on the European agenda in the last two decades there has been a gradual shift toward its politicization and securitization. In most cases, immigrants and refugees have become the main source of insecurity, aggregating a series of events generated by this state of the phenomenon. The link between migration-security-identity received new meanings with ample reverberations in the economic, political, social and societal field.

Keywords: *Migration, security, securitization, identity, border control, European Union*

United Nations Interventionism: Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo

MÉSZÁROS Edina Lilla

Abstract. *The Kosovo crisis was in the air for a long time, since the first protests of the Kosovar Albanians in 1981, after Tito's death continued to grow during the disintegration of the Yugoslav Federation in the early 1990s. The intervention of the international community in the summer of 1999 whose legality was and still is questioned, apparently managed to end the war, but not animosities and ethnic discrimination between Serbs and Albanians. This paper seeks to find answers to several questions, including the effectiveness of the peacekeeping process and of international interventions in post-conflict areas and their contribution to a more stable peace. The objective of the research is to describe the peacekeeping activities deployed in the unstable region of Kosovo and to analyze their role played on the international security system and their effects on the civilian population from the province. This paper aims to initiate in the backstage of the phenomenon of peacekeeping, bringing the pros and cons in terms of efficiency of the KFOR troops in Kosovo.*

Keywords: *blue helmets, Agenda for Peace, Tito, Eulex, Racak, Multinational Brigades*

Western Balkans Security within the EU Enlargement Perspective and the Kosovo-Bosnia and Herzegovina Cases Issues

Stanislas DOUÇOT-RUBIGNY

Abstract. *This article focuses on the security approach of the Western Balkan countries in the frame of the European Union accession. By implementing new criteria to the perspective of accession for a better stability and security in the region, the politics of EU succeeded to promote the regional dialogue between States, 20 years after the tragic conflicts that traumatized the ex-Yugoslavia countries. Last accession of Croatia to the EU shows that progresses have been made for the compliance with EU rules. But even if we can see very important progress in term of security such as border conflicts and ICTY participation, some issues like organized crime and corruption continue to trouble the region especially in the two “international protectorates”, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. The analysis of these two countries show the limits of the accession perspective impact and reveal difficulties to implement and follow European rules in States headed by ethnic tensions, inefficient fight against local threats, and marked by uncertain future.*

Keywords: *EU accession, security, Western Balkan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, security community, independence, corruption, organized crime.*

The European Dimension of Political Process in Moldova and Georgia: Realities and Perceptions

Natalia PUTINĂ and Victoria BEVZIUC

Abstract. *This article seeks to realize a comparative analysis of the Moldova and Georgia way to Europe, by placing them initially in an historical political context. Moldova and Georgia are two post-soviet states that have a lot of common particularities inherited from the Soviet Union. In the present Georgia and Moldova are the only states as members of the Eastern Partnership that have decided firmly on their future European way. Having characterized the emergence of political transformation in Georgia and Moldova in the last years, the article goes to explore similarities and differences of countries expressing this quality in terms of reforms that made politically closer to the European Union. The paper argues that values have been an important factor to explain the EU's foreign policy towards Georgia and Moldova, but also attempts to explain how European are Georgian and Moldovan people, trough analyzing their perception on West and European aspiration.*

Keywords: *Europeanization, political transformation, Eastern Partnership, European aspirations*

The Ukrainian Crisis: Between National Preferences/Interests of EU Member States and EU Security

Ioan HORGA and Ana-Maria COSTEA

Abstract. *Until presently the year of 2014 can be easily called the Ukrainian year. From its beginning the spotlight was mainly captured by the domestic situation from Ukraine and how it affects the regional level of security and the image of both Russia and the EU at the international level. After passing through several gas crisis, the 2008 Georgian war and faced with the Ukrainian refusal to sign the Association Agreement, the EU seems to be still incapable of fully managing the security level at its frontiers although claiming to be a global player. The different national preferences pose more pressure on the unitary position of the EU and threaten to create further disfunctionalities regarding the political identity of the organization.*

Keywords: *Ukraine, the EU, Russia, national preferences, geopolitics*

The European Studies – A Field with an Interdisciplinary Perspective

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Cross-border Cooperation in the Process of European Integration

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Security Issues in Contemporary European Integration Process

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Ethnical and Confessional Diversity and Cohabitation in the Ethnic Borderlands of Romania and Hungary between 1867-1920

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Politics and Economy in Euro-Mediterranean Region

Paul MOUTARDE

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