

In this Issue

At the present stage, the global community is looking for an answer not only to military and conflict challenges, but also to the ecological challenge of our civilization, which is the quintessence of the results of its destructive economic and nature-forming activities. The deterioration of the standard and quality of life in many countries of the Eastern Partnership, emerging difficulties in the development of the world economy, and finally, the general systemic crisis of modern civilization are associated with the ecological problem, military clashes and threats of new escalations in the post-Soviet region. The conditions of human survival require more active development and implementation of a single global strategy for safe social development, guaranteeing the transition to a society where the interests of the economy, politics, and social life will be purposefully coordinated with the possibilities of nature. This can be considered a discovery of our time and the main reason for the formation of the strategy of co-evolution of society and nature.

The concept of resilience in the modern South Caucasus is more of a rational idea than a model for future social development. It has become an alternative to the contradictory processes taking place in societies, when economic, political, intellectual inequality between individuals, social groups, regions and countries, contradictions between states have reached their culmination. The question of a fundamental change in sustainable development guidelines has arisen, which was caused by social, economic and environmental changes and is aimed at finding new alternative models and ideals for the future. The main ideas of co-evolution and Armenia's Crossroads of Peace project are extremely consonant with the traditions, spirit and mentality of post-war Armenia and meet the interests of its actors. The implementation of Armenia's Crossroads of Peace project should guarantee peace, ensuring a civilarchic transition of the country from uncontrolled spontaneous development to controlled, harmonious, safe in all respects progressive development with the preservation of the natural environment.

The transformation of geopolitical competition in the South Caucasus and the split of international law and the regional community in realpolitik and the digital environment continue. The systemic earthquake of integration processes and humanitarian law, which happened and continues with the Second Karabakh War of 2020, with the blockade of the Lachin corridor for 9 months and which was opened by the Azerbaijani authorities only so that Armenians would simply flee Nagorno-Karabakh due to ethnic cleansing.

Political scientists have yet to analyze the main factors that, despite international and European efforts, led to Azerbaijan initiating large-scale aggression against the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh on September 19, 2023. Political researchers have yet to explain why the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, EU, NATO and other intergovernmental organizations were unable to guarantee the security and rights of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, who were blockaded by Azerbaijan from December 2022 until the ethnic cleansing and mass exodus in late September 2023.

In 'Persecutory policies against Roma in Nazi Germany', Andrej Pupik analyzes the repressive mechanisms of persecution directed against Roma in Nazi Germany. The

article discusses the arrest of Roma and their transfer to concentration camps in Nazi Germany, where Roma wore black triangular patches, considered to symbolize “antisocial elements”, or green ones, denoting “professional criminals”. The article emphasizes that one of the first decisions taken by the agency was to extend racial laws to the Roma. It is noted that after 1936, the Nuremberg Laws began to apply to the Roma. It is emphasized that in 1936 the xenophobic mechanism of the Nazi German police towards the Roma became centralized and bureaucratic measures for the systematic persecution of Roma were expanded.

In his article ‘Russia’s Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus in the Context of Increasing New Regional Competition’, Zhak Manukyan, based on a comparative analysis of various factors of Russia’s foreign policy in the South Caucasus during the Second Karabakh War of 2020 and in the post-war period, gives his assessment of Russia’s regional strategy and hard power. The author provides a generalized description of the consequences of the Second Karabakh War, which radically changed the geopolitical and geo-economic situation in the South Caucasus region. The idea is substantiated that new realities have emerged for further regional dimensions in the South Caucasus. The author examines the main factors that determined the comprehensive analysis of key changes in Nagorno-Karabakh and in the countries of the South Caucasus, located in close proximity to the Russian and Turkish borders.

In the article ‘Human Security as a Factor of Sustainable Security in Post-War Armenia: Global Responsibility of Small States’, Michele Barbieri and Nane Aleksanyan discuss various dimensions of security in the contemporary post-war Armenian society, which is becoming increasingly aware of the need for an organized confrontation with the countless dangers, risks, challenges generated by the unfolding escalation and militarization of Azerbaijan. The article examines the characteristic features of global threats and the outbreak of the new coronavirus infection COVID-19, negative manifestations of a social, economic and political nature, increasing the seriousness of biosecurity and environmental disaster, which led to the understanding that the solution to the problem of human security by simple protection from threats is impossible, and the search for ways out of the current crisis situation must be considered in conjunction with the development of the post-pandemic and post-war Armenian society. The transformation of geopolitical interests after the Second Karabakh War of 2020, associated with the acquisition of conflict features by the system of international relations, is accompanied by growing political instability. The desire of post-war Armenia to take the most advantageous position in the new hierarchy of the world leads to an increase in contradictions between global players. The authors conclude that geopolitical tensions complicate the already difficult social and economic situation in the South Caucasus. The problems of the right to privacy, information and trade wars, sanctions policy, and declining economic growth call into question the well-being and safe development of the countries of the South Caucasus. The emergence of the new coronavirus infection COVID-19 and its spread in a short period of time to almost all regions of the world, as well as the Second Karabakh War and the escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian War, have once again confirmed the urgent need to revise the existing system of ensuring human security.

In ‘Theoretical Approaches to Political Stability: How Do Theories Interpret the Factors Influencing It?’, Armen Mirzoyan examines the features of applying scientific and theoretical approaches to studying political stability in changing conditions. The author gives a generalized description of political stability as the ability of a political system to be stable, resilient and effective. The idea is substantiated that modern political systems contain numerous contradictions that make the system unresilient and destabilized. The issue of rethinking and understanding political stability and the configuration of factors that ensure it continues to be a controversial one. This direction is also supplemented by the consideration of the fact that in a number of countries, waves of instability have taken both politicians and the expert community by surprise. This indicates a significant change in modern reality, as well as the fact that operational political and ideological schemes of the past may have reached the limits of their applicability. The author suggests that the revolutionary wave of destabilization from below in the modern world will not subside, rather, on the contrary, we should expect an escalation of tension, further weakening of political regimes, and an increase in the entropy of the world system.

In her article ‘Corruption and neo-colonialism in Latin America’, Nubia Nieto analyzes the main factors of corruption that hinder the development of Latin American countries. The main content of the study is the analysis of various aspects of corruption and neocolonialism that affect the economic sphere of Latin American countries, disrupting the market-competitive coordination mechanism and reducing the efficiency of the economy, slowing down its growth. The article analyzes the mechanism of corruption and anti-corruption policies in Latin American countries, showing how it hinders the inflow of investments, complicating the implementation of state social programs. Ultimately, all this has a negative impact on the standard of living of the population of Latin American countries, affecting a large part of it. This article attempts to reveal the relationship between colonialism and corruption in Latin America, influencing the stratification of the population and the formation of oligarchic groups through artificial and unfair redistribution of finances. Among other things, corruption creates mistrust of society towards the state and, since it affects the judicial system, towards all legal institutions.

In the article ‘Rethinking the Mosul Dam: A Reassessment of Its Impact Beyond the Traditional Narratives’, Filippo Verre examines the issues surrounding the Mosul Dam in the context of key infrastructure projects in Iraq. The author’s research objective was to attempt to assess the role of the Mosul Dam, as water has become one of the main limiting factors for economic development in many countries and regions, and as the growth of global water consumption, along with increasing levels of water pollution, leads to an increase in the number of countries with decreasing availability of water resources. Climate change will also intensify contrasts, especially droughts and floods, which will be more intense. All this will generate new conflicts around water, both domestic and international. The author concludes that the Mosul Dam has been the subject of extensive debate and scrutiny, often overshadowed by negative narratives regarding its safety and environmental impact. The high hydrological dependence between the countries in the region is characterized not only by the large number of actors, but also by the uneven nature of water distribution.

This volume of the journal includes three book reviews on cyberspace, cyber conflict and cyber arms control, preserving peace in troubled times, and populism and accountability. These books analyze key dimensions of contemporary cyberspace, thereby becoming a critical factor in global, regional, and national strategic stability. New types of cyber weapons can lead to an escalation of tensions up to a full-scale military conflict between nuclear powers. Thus, ensuring cybersecurity is becoming one of the key factors that directly impact strategic stability. At the same time, no state is able to protect itself from all cyber threats on its own. These books focused on such aspects as maintaining peace in troubled times; principles of regulation of national and international security in the digital environment; spheres of information security; public bodies in the sphere of national security and cybersecurity, their powers, interaction with each other; perception of the role of information and communication technologies as a factor of strategic stability.

An analysis of the contradictory processes of democratization taking place in modern democratic and authoritarian countries allows us to conclude that it is necessary to include in the legal system effective mechanisms for monitoring the use of democratic institutions for populist purposes. In everyday reality, the spread of the values of freedom and democracy often gives rise to the abuse of information channels to influence public opinion, leading to political and legal demagogic that has replaced effective mechanisms for ensuring the rule of law, law and order, and legal regulation in general. The emergence of democratic institutions and mechanisms designed to implement the will of the people enables individual participants in the political process, using modern technologies for manipulating consciousness, to realize their selfish interests without formally violating the law.

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