

WHY INFLUENCE SHOULD NOT BE EQUATED WITH IMPERIALISM. REFLECTIONS ON SAID'S CONCEPT OF ORIENTALISM

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Ioana LEUCEA^{**}

Abstract. *The concept of Orientalism correlated with the name of Edward Said is a fundamental landmark for the field of International Relations. Orientalism draws the attention to the constructivist approach of world order depicted as a Western product. Yet the main critique of the notion is related to the idea that Orientalism is in fact an Occidental product that it does not address the reality, but the imagined Orient by the Western culture. This article revises the debate over the Western perspective in interpreting the Oriental space, highlighting the lack of an objective approach as the concept of Orientalism is included in the sphere of competitive cultural identities and ideologies.*

Keywords: *identity–alterity; power–knowledge relation; Orientalism*

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THE EFFECTS OF BREXIT ON THE UK'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEM

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Abstract. *BREXIT is the term used to refer to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. The effects of Brexit on the UK economy have been felt since the referendum on June 23rd, 2016, when the majority of the UK's population voted to leave the European Union. In the years since the referendum and after the official withdrawal from the EU (as of 31st January 2020 and during the transition period which ended on 31st December 2020), the UK economy has experienced a variety of both positive and negative effects, all affecting the British economic, social and legal system. Some critics say that in the end, it resulted a very particular idea of sovereignty over economic good sense. Others say that the UK's decision to leave the European Union is an act of economic self-harm. The truth is inevitably somewhere in between.*

Keywords: *BREXIT, economic, social, legal, effects, UK, European Union*

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ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN CROSS BORDER COOPERATION AND THE IMPACT ON TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTION BUILDING AND EU FUND ABSORPTION

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Abstract. *The border region is the collision point of cultures, religions, languages, administrations, legislations and economic influences. All these factors have substantial contribution to the development of the phenomenon called cross-border cooperation.*

The issue of cross-border cooperation in general goes beyond geographical, economic and legal approaches. If we intend to treat the phenomenon from a specific point of view, we will find ambiguities and uncertainties regarding the role and functioning of some institutions in the process of cross-border cooperation and partnerships. In the process of EU-integration the Hungarian-Romanian state border is becoming even more permeable.

The growing permeability of the European borders contributes to the unification of the economic potentials of the neighbouring areas supplying benefits on regional and local level. The efficiency of cross-border cooperation depends on the coordination of all actors involved in this process, but also on the cooperation implemented at all levels, doubled by the existence of an adequate legal framework.

The study aims to realize an inventory of the cooperation activities with had an impact on transnational institution building amongst the local governance apparatus in Bihor County in the process of cross-border cooperation in the development period 2014-2020.

Keywords: *cross border, region, cooperation, governance, European*

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THE ACTIVITY OF THE ANTI-TERRORISM CENTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING AND PREVENTING TERRORISM

*Cristina EJOVA**

Abstract. *An important issue in the field of combating terrorism is the formation of an appropriate regulatory framework and the existence of an effective system of counteraction at the national and international levels. Many states have adopted special laws regarding the fight against terrorism; most countries long ago came to the conclusion that the fight against terrorism must be the prerogative of special organizations. The article will highlight the activity, the political and legal framework of the Anti-terrorism Center of the Republic of Moldova in the field of combating and preventing terrorism.*

Keywords: *International terrorism, international cooperation in fight against terrorism, prevention of terrorism, the Anti-terrorism Center of the Republic of Moldova, The Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova*

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THE BLACK SEA: A GEOPOLITICAL SPACE OF RUSSIAN THALASSOCRATIC AMBITIONS

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Abstract. *Rarely has a maritime space played such an important role in geopolitics and the regional and international balance of power. The last twenty years have brought dramatic changes to the international system and demonstrated that the end of history predicted by Fukuyama in the 1990s has not come true. Although separated by almost 8000 km, the Seas around China and the Black Sea have reached a symmetrical position in the new confrontation between the Euro-Atlantic allies and the new Sino-Russian axis. Just as the seas in the east and south of China represent a front in the struggle to change the international system between Communist China and the US together with its Asian allies (Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea), so the Black Sea has become a geopolitical space of confrontation between Russia on one side and Europe and the US on the other. The research "The Black Sea: A Geopolitical Space of Russian Thalassocratic Ambitions" wants to analytically present how Moscow tried to achieve thalassocratic ambitions through its expansionist policy in the case of the Invasion of Georgia in 2008, the Annexation of Crimea in 2014, and with the Attack on Ukraine this year. In the center of these expansionist policies there have always been reasons such as the expansion of the Russian sphere of influence, and the blocking of the Euro-Atlantic enlargement, but to all this was also added, in a complementary way, a historical thalassocratic ambition of the Russian Federation.*

Key words: *Coastline control, Georgia, Crimea, Ukraine, The balance of power, The symmetry between the Black Sea and the South and East China Seas*

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ANALYSIS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION IN LIGHT OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP INDEX

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Abstract. *In June 2022 the Republic of Moldova received the status of candidate country for membership of the European Union. In spite of the euphoria generated by this historic step, European integration seems to be a difficult and lengthy process. The result is nevertheless of considerable importance, but it raises the question: what has determined this development? Was it Republica Moldova's proactive progress, or the geopolitical climate introduced after Russian aggression against Ukraine?*

Methodologically, we aim to analyze some of the indicators quantified in the Eastern Partnership Index during the period 2011-2021. We intend to identify the integrator level in three relevant measurable areas (and a couple of subareas): Management, Approximation and Linkage.

From a methodological perspective, we propose the following levels of analysis: a. A contextualization of the RM's involvement in the EaP; b. An analysis of the EaP Index and the identification of integrator levels; and c. Generating an inductive response regarding the European path of the RM.

Keywords: *Republic of Moldova, European Union, Eastern Partnership (EaP), Eastern Partnership Index.*

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PROPAGANDA AND POSTHEROISM IN RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE. A MEDITATION AROUND CONFLICT AS AN IMAGINED COMMUNITY

*Silviu PETRE**

Abstract. *The post Cold War euphoria pervaded also strategic studies with the belief that future wars will be waged in a postheroic manner, to take Edward Luttwak's famous catchphrase- technological intensive and almost cost free in human lives, they hailed the promise of delivering swift victories for industrialized nations. Our article issues a critique based on the sociology of Émile Durkheim and Georg Simmel and embeds postheroism in a wider notion called "war as an imagined community" arguing that postheroic operations work to the extent they are limited and cover in a solid narrative, both for the international community as well as for the impatient home public. The case studied here is the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war started in February 2022.*

Keywords: *Russia, Ukraine, postheroic warfare, imagined community*

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MOLDO-EUROPEAN RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

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Abstract. *The events in the region, which resulted in the military aggression of the Russian Federation on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, accelerated the dynamics of relations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. Currently, the Moldovan-European relations are conditioned by the events in Ukraine, which have oriented the vector of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova versus the EU. The Republic of Moldova's submission of the application for EU membership and the obtaining of the status of candidate country for EU integration and tells us about the state's desire to align with the processes in the European integrationist space.*

This article aims to highlight the conditions under which the Republic of Moldova has obtained the status of EU candidate country, as well as the conditions imposed by the EU on the resilience of the Republic of Moldova to European standards.

Keywords: *European Union, Republic of Moldova, status, candidate state, European integration.*

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CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN ROMANIA. A WAY TO PROMOTE ROMANIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

*Gianina JOLDESCU-STAN**

Abstract. *Launched by the Council of Europe in 1987, the programme of cultural routes is meant to prove that the European cultural heritage (regardless of the time and space) has the ability to create a commune ground between all countries within Europe. They represent everything that Europe stands for: from cultural democracy and diversity, cultural enrichment, to human right protection. The cultural routes represent a model of cultural management promoted by the Council of Europe, but they can also be perceived as a model of touristic management, as they have the potential to contribute the economic development of a country, as a landmark. After the covid-19 pandemic it is interesting for us to see the way in which we can foster these routes including sites in Romania, to use them as way of promoting Romanian cultural heritage.*

Keywords: *cultural heritage, cultural routes, romanian tourism, economic development*

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THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE WORKFORCE AFTER 2020

*Ana-Maria COATU**

Abstract. *This article analyzes the general impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workforce with a special focus on Romania after 2020. Our hypothesis is that the COVID-19 has generated a speed-up change in how people work and their attitude towards work. As regards to the employers, COVID-19 made them adapt to the new sanitary conditions by allowing the employees to work from home, which has also led to an increasing trust in the work ethics of the employee and forced the managers to better allocate the tasks in order to continue to perform as a company. Also, this pandemic has led other employers and entrepreneurs to change and to reinvent their businesses. As pertaining to the employee, this pandemic made him more adaptable to change and to prefer work-from-home conditions or a hybrid system.*

Keywords: *COVID-19, work from home, workforce, work ethics, adaptability to change*

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COVID-19: HOW THE PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA USED FACEBOOK TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE POPULATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY FROM 2020

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Abstract. *The present article aimed to analyse the way in which a political leader used the Facebook social network to communicate with the population at the beginning of the state of emergency from 2020. Thus, in order to achieve this objective, I have chosen to analyse the Facebook page of the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, starting from indicators such as: the total number of posts, the total number of posts about Covid-19 out of the total number of posts, but also the type of communicated messages. We are going to observe the manner in which all the communication was directed towards restrictions and preventive measures, the strategy aiming to influence the population in these directions.*

Keywords: *Social Media, Political communication, communication strategy, pandemic*

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THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE, A EUROPEAN LANGUAGE – BETWEEN MODERNISM AND EUROPEANIZATION

*Mariana Viorica BUDA**

Abstract. *The language spoken by a community of people is a complex system of linguistic signs formed during the historic coexistence. The emergence of a language is a large process and it can't be determined exactly the beginning, even if the specialists establish always a starting moment. The Romanian language passed during the history through several stages of evolution and maturity. In the last Century, the Romanian language entered in its Modern Age, characterized by stability. However, there are important changes, influenced by the French and Italian languages at the begging of the XX Century and English language at the end of the XX Century. The aim of our paper is to describe and analyse the different stages of the Romanian language in the last 100 years and how it was influenced by the major events that Romania went through.*

Keywords: *Romanian language, modernism, Europeanization, XX Century, European language*

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CULTURAL HERITAGE AS A POTENTIAL CATALYST OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

*Bianca Maria SFERLE**

Abstract. *This paper is a first step in the elaboration of a PhD thesis on the same topic and aims at analysing the role of cultural heritage in international relations, mainly at the level of the European Union and the EU Member States. From the analysis of existing scientific works in this field, from the observation of the policies and programmes of the European Union, as well as the initiatives of the Member States, a close link has been observed between this vast concept "heritage" and the development of international relations with other communities, states and other international actors.*

Keywords: *cultural heritage, culture, international relations, european programs*

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MAKAN PATITA: COMMENSALITY AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN POST-CONFLICT SITUATION IN INDONESIA

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Abstract. *The post-conflict situation is a phase that occurs after the signing of the peace agreement. However, it cannot be assumed as the end of the conflict and the beginning of a peaceful situation because post-conflict is very fragile. The war may have ended, but small conflicts in large numbers, are still possible, and if not dealt with immediately, the situation can relapse into war. This is where the importance of intercultural dialogue is to ensure durable peace. One of the instruments of intercultural dialogue is commensality. This article then examines a form of commensality in the city of Ambon, Indonesia, as an instrument for building peace after the violent conflict of 1999-2002. The results of this study indicate that the commensality of makan patita traditions has supported the creation of space and place for intercultural dialogue. Space is a material form. The commensality tradition in Ambon which is carried out in cities or public spaces, allowing participants to gather and dialogue, while Place is more of values and meanings provided by the implementation of this tradition, such as the meaning of togetherness, and peace. and unity.*

Keywords: *commensality, intercultural dialogue, Ambon, Indonesia, makan patita*

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DIALECTICS OF ETHNICITY AND YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN ZIMBABWE. CASE OF GUKURAHUNDI INCIDENT (1982-1987)

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Abstract. *This study sought to analyse how ethnicity contributes towards youth political participation in Zimbabwe. This study examines how Gukurahundi incident between the Ndebele and Shona ethnic groups affect youth political participation in Matabeleland region. The researcher made use of constructivist theory that contends ethnic conflict is the product of a social construct built on one group's experiences, understanding, and attitudes as they perceive another. The study employed semi-structured interviews and secondary sources to collect data. Qualitative data was analysed using textual analysis. The research findings presented that forgiveness is the last resort to make peace regarding the Gukurahundi incident. The social relations between the Shona and Ndebele ethnic groups is largely hostile as the young people are angry as they carry Gukurahundi stories from which their parents or elders are traumatised. The research findings also indicated that financial constraints in the country limit reconciliation as the relatives of the victims of the Gukurahundi demand for compensation. The study revealed that the Shona and Ndebele ethnic conflict can threaten Zimbabwe internal peace stability as long as perpetrators of Gukurahundi incident fail to apologies and offer compensation to the relatives of the victims.*

Keywords: *ethnicity, youth, political participation, elections, Gukurahundi*

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MEDIATION PROCEEDINGS WITHIN THE DRUZE COMMUNITY: TRADITION V. MODERNITY

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Abstract. *Mediation is an alternative conflict-resolution method, in the framework of which the parties to the dispute engage in negotiations in order to resolve their disagreements. Druze Religious Courts are part of the court system in the State of Israel. The Druze Religious Courts Law, 5723-1962 was enacted in 1962, leading to the establishment of those courts. Since that time, members of the congregation have litigated before Druze religious courts, and Druze Qadis entered their judgments according to the rules of marriage law that are taken from Druze religious law and Druze custom. The Druze religion has also acknowledged the concept of mediation, and especially with respect to disputes that involve spouses.*

In the context of mediation, it should be remembered that the privilege and necessity of understanding, assessing and being creative belongs to the parties. Therefore, the [facilitation] of agreements and the “closure of files” are not the true standard by which the success of mediation proceedings is measured in terms of their social-educational aspects. The true standard consists of the degree of transformation experienced by the parties in all matters that pertain to their belief in their ability to manage their relationship and their disputes in the future.

Keywords: *Druze Community, mediation, Israel, tradition, modernity, Druze Religious Courts*

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ROMA COMMUNITY. LEGISLATIVE ELEMENTS AND ACTIONS BY WHICH THE ROMANIAN STATE SUPPORTS THEIR INTEGRATION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

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Abstract. *Through this study, we set out to make a foray into the actions by which the Romanian state supports the integration and non-discrimination of Roma at the national level, after the post-December period, when the social, economic, and political realities of Romania were redefined. The method used is qualitative, based on the analysis of various documents, with data obtained from both primary and secondary sources.*

The post-December legislative and visionary technique tends towards a multicultural approach in relation to the Roma community. Thus, the current legislative and institutional adaptations were accompanied by a special dynamism, following a structural logic. The persistent cleavage between the majority and ethnic Roma, despite the measures taken, seems to be maintained. The complexity of the difficulties they face requires proactive state intervention. Thus, affirmative action is a remedial and necessary instrument which needs to be used more actively to reduce the gaps in various social areas.

The conclusions are clear, from our point of view: even if the actions are complex and judiciously crafted, the actions are poorly executed for several reasons. Although there is a growing ethnic mobilization, the state is inadequately addressing the situation. In its latest approaches, the state tends to emphasize the cultural side of the Roma and to improve the actions, at least on a theoretical and discursive level.

Keywords: *Roma community, minorities, state actions, strategies, integration, non-discrimination, affirmative actions.*

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