

THE EUROPEANISATION OF GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION CRITERIA: A COMPARISON BETWEEN ALBANIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA

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Abstract. *Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation demand that all the bilateral relations of a country be stable and that all the disputes are to be resolved before the signing of the Accession Treaty. Considering that Albania and North Macedonia are two candidate countries which are found at the same stage of the EU Accession, and the weight that such criteria hold for these countries, it is necessary to provide an assessment of their preparation in this regard. The EU studies field provides for the use of Europeanisation literature to measure the fulfilment of the Accession criteria, one approach of which is measuring the policy adoption. For this purpose, Albania and North Macedonia were used as case studies to measure the progress of Europeanisation through the policy adaptation process as regarding Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation during the period 2000-2019.*

Keywords: *Europeanisation, Albania, North Macedonia, relations, cooperation*

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EUROPEAN STUDIES AT THE FACULTY OF ARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA, PAST AND PRESENT

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Abstract. *Analyze, interpret and think Europe, based on studies guided by a multifocal pluridisciplinarity has the line master foster learning and critical thinking in order to make the diagnosis of structures and geographic representations, historical, political, social, economic, cultural, religious, but also the attitudes and aspirations, bearing in mind the otherness in all its dimensions. It was in the pursuit of this goal that in Portugal courses in European Studies have been created. In several areas have also been offered oriented courses for the training of economists, lawyers, teachers, politicians, political scientists, historians of European Studies. Framed within various universities, institutes and higher schools, research centers, foundations, European Studies also mobilize humanistic knowledge. This happened at the University of Coimbra.*

Keywords: *Europe, Portugal, European Studies, European Construction, Higher Education.*

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HOW ARE POPULISM AND EUROSCEPTICISM LINKED WITH LEFT AND RIGHT IDEOLOGIES? THE CASES OF FIDESZ AND PODEMOS

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Abstract. *With the rise of populism and Euroscepticism in the political arena of the European Union, studies have long pertained on the particular relationship between these two notions. Both of them have found place in left-wing and right-wing political parties, establishing themselves within the foundations of party programs. This study aims to understand the relationship populism and Euroscepticism build with both left and right ideologies. Previous literature demonstrates that these notions are instrumentalized for socio-economic purposes in the left, and socio-cultural purposes on the right. The study's goal is to verify this connection, through comparing two different case studies: the first from the right-wing political party Fidesz in Hungary, and the second from the left-wing political party Podemos in Spain, which both are described as populist and Eurosceptic. The study concludes in the verification of the claim aforementioned: Podemos focuses on socio-economic goals, while Fidesz in socio-cultural.*

Keywords: *populism, Euroscepticism, ideology, policy, socio-economic, socio-cultural, European Union*

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LEADERS, STATES AND WAR IN UKRAINE: BACK TO THE OLD SCHOOL OF REALISM?

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Abstract. *Nowadays, the promises of a universal neoliberal order seem to have been hijacked by tendencies of illiberalism, authoritarianism and militarism all across the world, including in some Western societies. The complex crisis the current international system is facing, covering aspects from climate change to pandemics, and from political and financial instability to conflict and war, are picturing a grim reality. Does the grand old theory of realism coming back? Did we bury it too soon, academically speaking? The events in Ukraine, since 2014 and more sharply since 24 February 2022, prove that at least some realist and neorealist assumptions had survived and are still shaping the world. Russia under president Putin seems to lead a crusade of old Real-Politik practices deemed to topple not only Ukraine as an independent nation but also the foundations of the global neoliberal order.*

Keywords: *Real-Politik, power, hegemony, rationality, Russia, NATO*

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A SHIFT IN IR APPROACH AFTER UKRAINE WAR: REMILITARIZATION OF EUROPE, AN INTERPRETATION THROUGH THE REALIST LENS

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Abstract. *In the research my aim will be to give an explanation on the response and actions of the European countries during the Ukraine war through a realist perspective. The Ukraine war is potentially the new case that has left space for interpretation on the realist interpretation as well as possibly giving room for arguments in criticism of the liberal or neoliberal thinking. Priority will be given to the time frames surrounding the annexation of Crimea and up until the Ukraine War. The conflict's origins and its effects will then be largely interpreted from a realism standpoint. The process of analyzing will be as mentioned priorly in explaining the occurrences during the Ukrainian revolution and the potential clash of interest between the major power or actors (USA, EU, Russia). Further explanation will be given in the approaches of the European country's response to the threat of the Ukraine war, in which the majority of countries choose to increase their military capabilities. It must be noted in my findings that some of the diplomatic elements despite their presence throughout the conflict, the outcomes of them were not very successive, leaving again most of the countries to choose further rearmament rather than diplomatic language. The highlighted aspect in this case is the increase of importance in military power and military alliances as a form of balancing power and maintaining security as well as deterring potential aggression.*

Keywords: *realism, military power, military capability, conflict, alliance, international institution, Europe*

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CHALLENGES OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISTINCTION AND PROPORTIONALITY PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DETERRENCE POLICIES

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Abstract. *The article advocates for a multidisciplinary approach to the challenges surrounding nuclear weapons and the implementation of the proportion and distinction IHL principles. It also examines the relationship between nuclear deterrence policies and IHL norms. To this end, it traces the historical development of IHL from the Roman law codification of jus ad bellum and jus in bello to the contemporary IHL institutions of the law of Hague and the law of Geneva. It also highlights the role of the Martens Clause as a safety net for humanitarian protection and reviews the existing legal instruments on nuclear weapons, such as the NPT, the TPNW and the ICJ advisory opinion. The study's outcome underlines the need for more comprehensive and binding legal mechanisms to regulate nuclear weapons in a way that is in accordance with IHL and human rights.*

Keywords: *law of war, treaty, indiscriminate attack, armed conflict, target management, jus ad bellum, jus in bello, law of Hague, law of Geneva, Martens Clause*

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US HISTORICAL CHALLENGES: A COMPARASION BETWEEN THE COLD WAR AND THE US-CHINA COMPETITION

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Abstract. *At the end of the Cold War, the US became the only superpower in the international system, but this situation continued until 2010, when China became the second economic power. The relation between the US and China is very complicated compared to the relationship between the US and the USSR during the Cold War. In the first case, the two powers combine the economic cooperation with the international competition, whereas in the second the two superpowers try to impose their political and economic system in the entire world. The USSR was using a political and military strategy, whereas China was using the economic expansion in order to change the international order and the regional power distribution. Also, the Chinese soft power was not as powerful as was the Russian soft power in order to influence the Western elites to support the Chinese political and economic model. Even though between the USSR and China there are many differences, China was determined to challenge the liberal order and to compete with the US. For the moment, there is not a clear winner between the US and China, but the next twenty years are going to be shaped by this competition.*

Keywords: *regional hegemon, soft power, economical competition, technological competition*

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REPRESENTATIONS IN CODES AND GEOPOLITICAL MODELS OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA REGARDING DEFENSE AND SECURITY

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Abstract. *The governments of the Movement Towards Socialism implemented profound structural reforms in the Bolivian State, encompassing legal and regulatory aspects and citizen relations, as well as the symbolic production of the State. The creation of the Plurinational State implied reforms in the legal, normative and doctrinal frameworks, based on an institutionalized collective imaginary. This ideological-political construct, known as "national popular" (Cf. Infra), became state policies under the Suma Qamaña model. This doctrine, which emerged from the interpretations, discourses and representations of the various trade union strata of the Movement Towards Socialism, guided the restructuring of the formal spheres of the Bolivian State.*

The study of how the Plurinational State constructed, signified and operationalized the concept of "security" revealed the social relations underlying the political processes and some consequences of its implementation at the societal level. This includes the process of normalization and internalization of a political-citizen habitus, which develops mainly in the informal sphere of social relations, in clear contradiction with the limits and objectives established by the formal sphere. Such habitus not only permeates civil society interactions, but also has a profound impact on the governance and management of state and public policies, as well as on their scope, effectiveness and relevance in relation to the civil society to which they are beholden. This highlights the contradictions between the State, its organs and institutions, and the corporate and union interests that make up the political hegemony of the MAS.

Keywords: *Bolivia, geopolitical models, Plurinational State, security.*

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SOCIAL CAPITAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL NETWORKS IN THE CONTEXT OF TIMIȘOARA – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2023

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Abstract. *Knowing that the ECoC label is a potential platform for generating social capital for the cultural sector, this article proposes, using the tools of network science, an empirical analysis of the cultural ecosystem of Timișoara 2023. The results allow to discuss the density of the network of partners, the centrality of the most connected partners, the intensity of collaboration between partners and the clusters of collaboration by type of organization. The results can be a policy resource for investigating the sustainability of the cultural ecosystem after obtaining the title of European Capital of Culture.*

Keywords: *cultural ecosystem, network, social capital, bonding, bridging, linking.*

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LINGUISTIC CHALLENGES DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract. *It seems that in the last few years the crises in Europe are at the order of the day, on each country's agenda. From an economic crisis to a sanitary crisis and lately a security crisis, the European Union has to face different challenges. Communication in this period is very important in order to keep us safe and to be protected. During the Covid-19 pandemic European Union faced different linguistic challenges (Piller, 2020; Civico, 2021) that caused misinformation or lack of information among the people. As Marco Civico observes, "People with limited knowledge of the local dominant language may be excluded from information campaigns about measures to contain the spread of Coronavirus and vaccines." (Civico, 2021:2)*

Linguistic diversity and multilingual communication in European Union is a reality, being one of its main objectives. However, the multilingualism is challenging (Czyzewska, 2014) and one of the most important limitations in communication that came with the Covid-19 pandemic is the devaluation of minority and regional languages and the rise of English-centered multilingualism in the communication (Crnic-Grotic, 2020).

Our paper will be structured in two main parts. In the first part we will discuss about the difficulties and challenges of multilingualism in European Union nowadays and we will focus on the multilingual communication during emergency situations (Civico, 2021). In the second part we will review the strategies adopted by European Union regarding the multilingualism during the Covid-19 pandemic and we will try to analyze how minority and regional languages were impacted by them. In both situations we will base our research on the official websites of the institutions of the European Union and on studies or articles already written by other researchers and scholars. On the basis of the findings of this review, we will propose a number of conclusions about the causes and consequences of the difficulties related to multilingualism in emergency situations.

According to Ingrid Piller, Jie Zhang and Jia Li (Piller & all, 2020:503), Covid-19 crisis is a great lesson for us to open a space for intercultural dialogue and to better integrate the multilingualism in communication.

Keywords: *linguistic challenge, communication in EU, multilingualism, communication in crisis, communication during covid-19*

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RUSSIAN ETHNIC MINORITY IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE OF LATVIA

*Vladislav VOLKOV**

Abstract. *The author of the article shows the importance of studying the economic environment, organizational culture in Latvia, as an ethnically diverse side, taking into account the influence of the political and ethnic factors. Since there are two ethnocultural poles in the ethnic diversity of Latvia - ethnic Latvians, who are the core of the Latvian nation-state, and Russians, as the largest ethnic minority in the country, the author of the article focused on the issue of the nature of ethnic differences in the Latvian organizational culture. While the few works within the framework of the economic science of Latvia consider the established organizational culture in this country mainly as a homogeneous ethno-cultural entity. To confirm the hypothesis that the ethnic factor also plays an important role in the economic life of Latvia, the author of the article in 2021 organized a sociological study in research project "Interaction of the individual, society and the state in the overall process of Latvian history: conflicts of values and the formation of common values at historical breaking points".*

Keywords: *multi-ethnic environment, ethical values, ethnic favoritism, integration*

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INTEGRATION OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES INTO ROMANIAN SOCIETY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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*Răzvan CÂRCIUMARU***

Abstract. *This article presents a research on the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Romania in the context of the armed conflict in Ukraine, addressing ways of adaptation and factors influencing this process. By using a mixed approach, combining the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, the study aims to capture the magnitude, characteristics and dynamics of the migration flow, as well as the subjective perspective of refugees on the process of their integration into Romanian society. By applying relevant theoretical frameworks, examining up-to-date statistical data and consulting primary information, this research aims to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the process of integration of Ukrainian refugees into Romanian society.*

Keywords: *inclusion; barriers; perceptions; media; perspectives*

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THE CHALLENGES OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT: EUROSCEPTICISM AND NATIONALISM. CAUSES AND PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract. *The last few years have been marked by a series of challenges for the entire Western world. It is about a succession of crises, among which we recall the institutional, economic, political, social and sanitary ones that have befallen Europe. The pandemic and the conflict at the border of the European Union represent only recent crises with a strong impact on the European construct. In this context, the nationalist discourse legitimized itself as revenge and alternative at the same time. Thus, almost naturally, the phenomenon of Euroscepticism fueled by the effervescence of nationalism also began to grow. Through the present study, we aim to understand to what extent the growth of the nationalist-Eurosceptic phenomenon within the European Union represents an imminent danger or an opportunity for the consolidation of the European project. In the first part we will make a brief presentation of the causes and problems that led to the growth of nationalism. Then, our study will present the evolution of Euroscepticism and the emergence of the populist vote within the EU – a vote that was most often associated with EXIT-type projects. The last part aims to present a perspective through which we can evaluate whether the recent crises are not actually opportunities to combat destabilizing phenomena.*

Keywords: *European Union, scepticism, nationalism, crisis, identity.*

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STAGES OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ITS CRIMINAL IMPACT ON HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS

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Abstract. *In the Hungarian and international geographical and sociological literature, the stages of urban development are dealt with extremely widely, so the authors refrain from describing them in detail. The relationship between crime and urban development stages is tangential in previous studies. The researchers mention a positive or negative change in the crime rate for each stage but do not go further. They do not undertake to deal with specific criminal values, the structure, or potential solutions for crime prevention.*

This study examines the stages of urban development from the perspective of changes in crime. Among the four stages of urban development, the study deals with suburbanization, deurbanisation, and urbanization. In doing so, it shows what main crimes are characteristic of each developmental stage. The authors also mention a new urban development phase that characterizes some European cities. These settlements are mainly located in Central Europe. As a result of the new type of forced industrialization, tens of thousands of new workers are arriving in some settlements. Some of them are foreign workers, which also has a criminogenic effect.

Keywords: *crime, urban development, suburbanization, deurbanization, urbanization, border*

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THE IMPORTANCE OF IOT IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

*Endre NYITRAI**

Abstract. *Every day, we leave behind more and more digital data, which is related to the use of modern technical devices as well. This can speed up the flow of information. With the emergence of the Internet of Things, when machines communicate with each other and machines with people and exchange information. It has become essential to get to know the applications behind each device, as well as to analyze and examine the process of digital citizenship formation. The study presents modern technical devices, applications, data and digital citizenship from the Hungarian point of view, as well as the related decisions.*

Keywords: *IoT, EoT, forensics, technology, mobile devices*

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INEQUALITIES IN RETIREMENT AGE AND LIFE EXPECTANCY

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Abstract. *In the countries of the world as well as in the European Union, the continuous growth in life expectancy at birth is accompanied by an increase in retirement age. Comparing these age limits to the expected lifespan for men and women, we find huge differences between the expected years spent alive after retirement. In this paper, we examine one aspect of sustainability of different European pension systems, concentrating mainly on life expectancy and retirement age. On a large sample, we analyse how the governments change the retirement age for men and women and how it relates to demographic factors such as ageing and fertility. Considering that the pension system is also a redistribution mechanism, sustainability can be seen as a trade-off between fairness and efficiency.*

Keywords: *life expectancy, retirement age, European pension systems*

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THE PERSPECTIVES OF ENSURING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA THROUGH ITS INTEGRATION INTO THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SYSTEM

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*Mariana IAȚCO***
*Victoria BEVZIUC****
*Natalia PUTINĂ*****

Abstract. *Gender equality tends to be considered an indicator for developed societies, but developing societies should also provide all the prerequisites (institutional, policy framework, resources, etc.) for achieving this objective. Gender gaps, which are highlighted in the National Development Strategy (NDS) – long visionary development document of the Republic of Moldova, adopted at the end of 2022, were analyzed in terms of the causes, but also the factors that determine them. However, the causes of gender inequalities in education, access to infrastructure, utilities, fair retirement pensions, human security have been omitted in the NDS. There are no records on the level of representation in public consultations of men and women. The version of the NDS adopted by the Government integrates aspects related to the gender perspective to a greater extent than the version of the document, placed for consultations on July 26, 2022 (which only analyzed the gaps in the incomes between women and men). Even if in the analysis of the situation the gender dimension is integrated to a more limited extent, then in the part of objectives, targets and policy directions (Results Framework), the gender perspective, materialized by reducing inequalities and inequities of opportunities and access to resources between women and men is present in all 10 general objectives.*

Keywords: *gender, gap, strategy, objectives, equality, values, commitments*

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INTERNATIONAL INDICES MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE

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Abstract. *Monitoring the quality of life by means of appropriate performance indices in order to conclude on the need to implement policies aimed at a real improvement of the quality of life of the individual are the objectives of the present study. Analysis of the nature of the means that can provide adequate information on the reality in question is essential for establishing the right policies to optimise the quality of life. From what can be seen from the data analysis, it is important to link statistics that take a quantitative and general approach with statistics that take a qualitative and particular approach.*

Keywords: *Quality of life, measurement indices, well-being, happiness, health, social integration*

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ARE THE HEALTHCARE POLICIES IMPLEMENTED IN CHINA AND EUROPE EFFECTIVE IN COMBATING FUTURE PANDEMICS?

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Abstract. *COVID-19 came unprecedented, exposing the challenges in the healthcare policies of the EU and China in combating the virus. China's zero COVID-19 policy, although effective in reducing COVID-19 transmissions, was criticized by both the public and healthcare professionals. The policy was only effective in the short term, and once China eased its lockdown, the COVID-19 cases surged. Also, the EU's digital COVID-19 certificates, although vital in determining the COVID-19 status of the visitors during the pandemic, are only acceptable in the EU member states and expose travelers to the risk of contracting the disease. For health policies to be effective in combating future pandemics, they require improvement by involving public members and enhancing global cooperation.*

Keywords: *EU digital COVID 19 certificates; zero-covid policy; quarantine; mass testing; Omicron variant*

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