

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOREWORD

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You are welcomed to read issue №2 of our journal, which contains the materials dedicated to a whole range of topical scientific problems.

Geopolitics and international relations are presented by the article of Igor A. Matveev “‘Security trap’ as a challenge for a post conflict reconstruction in Syria”. The article was written on the basis of empirical materials, collected by the author in the course of his diplomatic service in the Russian Federation Embassy in Damask in 2014-2017 and during his subsequent regular visits to Syria. The article is dedicated to the complex analysis of business risks in Syria in the security sphere, which were called by the author as “security trap”. It is just the business risks that hamper the growth of business activity in the country. Comprehension of their nature and peculiarities of its manifestation are useful from the practical point of view for due account of its external and internal challenges in the process of post conflict reconstruction of Syria, and in the light of Russia’s stabilizing role included.

The changing socium is reflected in the article by Victoria Yu. Ledeneva “The transformative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Higher Education systems”. I would draw the attention of the readers to the circumstance that the long term consequences of COVID-19 pandemic for the Higher education in different countries are considered in the article. The problem is poorly investigated due to the shortage of the representational information. The open sources materials have been used by the author to present the systematized dynamics of the processes occurring in this sphere, as well as to evaluate the pandemic impact on the world processes in the higher education. The author also shows his comprehension of the process of the global policy and geopolitical factors impact on the future of the world higher education.

The historical retrospective and its interconnection with the contemporaneity are presented in two articles. This is, first of all, the article by Khatanbold Oidov and Budsuren Davaanyam “Chinese Investment and the ‘Belt & Road’ Initiatives in Mongolia” (Case of international investments). The authors aimed at investigating the circumstances of elaborating mutual trust and trusting understanding on the part of the citizens, civil servants and politicians, who are the human capital influencing in depth the efficiency realization in the Chinese projects investment in Mongolia. The authors have made the preliminary conclusions of implementation into life of the investment strategy of China in Mongolia, by having analyzed the current investment tendencies and having considered the advance prospect of “‘One belt – one road’ Initiative” project.

Elena A. Kuzmenko in her retrospective “The White and Red Forces of the Civil War: Problems of Modern Public Interpretation of Historical Memory in Finland”, has turned to historical memory, which has acquired a significant topicality in our days. She supplies the characteristics for the contemporary public debates in Finland on the issue of participation of “the red and white forces” in the events of the Civil War through the interpretation of historic sources. She makes the conclusion about the transformations, which the historical memory of the Finnish people had undergone over the past decades. The research is built on the basis of methodology of the historical trauma studies and mechanisms of its overcoming, history of daily routine, sociological methods.

The article submits the results of the study of the vast volume of historical sources which show that the public discussions related to the Civil War are having the tendency to smooth the evaluations, despite the fact that debates on Winter war (and moreover the World War II) have

rather the tendency towards exacerbation. The need to rethinking of the civil confrontation heritage, according to the author, may become the potential basis for fruitful humanitarian dialogue between Russia and Finland.

The important part of the scientific interest in the National Research Institute of Communications Development is demonstrated by the issue of communicative regimes of countries and regions. A research in more than twenty countries has been made. We publish the results of the international scientific discussion on communicative regimes in the countries in Central Asia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia on the pages of this issue. This top priority problems are covered by the studies made by the team of Russian and foreign scholars, and the results of the studies are shown in the three collective articles.

The article by Nikolai P. Gribin "Communication regimes in the Central Asian states in the context of the National security interest of the Russian Federation" reveals the different manifestations of the destructive impact of the Western countries on communication regimes and information space of friendly to us countries in Central Asia. The impact poses a threat to their national security and contradicts to the national interest of the Russian Federation. The attention is drawn to the role of national mass media in their arsenal of impact tools on the brains and psyche of the population in the Central Asian countries. The article suggests the proposal in organization of the systems counteraction to destructive activities of the foreign forces in the informational field in the Central Asian countries and setting up a complex system of blocking (jointly with the Russian Federation) and neutralization of harmful information propaganda materials.

The article review of the investigation results by Kalimash K.Begalinova, Nikolai P.Gribin, Valentina V. Komleva, Tatiana V. Kotukova, Ravshan R. Nazarov, Aigerim N. Ospanova, Viktor S.Panov, Nadezda G. Smolik, Aigerim S. Turgunbayeva, Eleva G. Cheremenina, contains the basic ideas, put forward by Russian and foreign participants in the International scientific discussion on the subject: "Communication regimes of the Central Asian countries". The discussion was held under the auspices of the National Research Institute of Communications Development, NRICD (НИИРК). The experts keynoted a number of important aspects, which had been in the focus of special attention before: artificially accentuated problematics of "historical trauma" in the informational space in the Central Asian countries; and the change in communication formats under the conditions of COVID-19; the importance of the study of communication regimes within the context of ensuring the collective in formational security, the need to elaborate terms and notions common for Russia and the Central Asian countries when forming the legislation relative to communication and information.

The article review "Communication regimes in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia: scientific discourse" contains the research results of the communication regimes of these countries, conducted by Valentina V. Komleva ("Communication regimes of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia: main conclusions based on the comparative research results"), as well as the debates on this issue, in the materials submitted by Vladislav V. Volkov ("Reflection of institutionally fixed parameters of intra-ethnic communication in Latvia in the practices of individual authors") and participants in the discussion Vladislav V. Vorotnikov and Andrei D. Starikov. The discussion was initiated and was held by the National Research Institute of Communications Development, NRICD (НИИРК). The discussion covered certain aspects of institutionalization of the communication regimes of the countries, the role of historically shaped and contemporary practices in Latvia, Lithuania Estonia; actor models of communication regimes in these countries, the role of political institutions, civil society and business, mass media in the formation of communication regimes; peculiarities of communication regimes relative to separate groups of population, mass media in the neighboring countries.

Dear readers!

The members of the Editorial Board of our journal express their hope that the materials of the current issue will arise interest with you and you will become our authors further on.