

S U M M A R I E S O F M A J O R A R T I C L E S

Yu.I. Drobyshev. Otūkän at the Middle Ages.

Otūkän was a political and sacred center of several nomadic empires. Its location is quite questionable but many specialists locate Otūkän on the banks of the Orkhon River in Mongolia somewhere close to the old Mongolian capital Karakorum. The author proposes that Uyghurs have understood the Otūkän's borders more widely than ancient Turks did, and in fact included the whole Khangai Mountains. Later on, during the Mongol empire, Mongols called this territory Karakorum, and in the subsequent centuries till now – Khangai. The name of the Mongolian empire's capital could originate from the name of the central military camp of Eletmish Bilga kaghan (747–759) located near the extinct volcano Khorgo.

Key words: Otūkän, Orkhon river, Khangai, volcano Khorgo, ancient Turks, Uyghurs, Mongols.

K.Yu. Derbitskaya. Morocco in the Franco-German Relations (1907–1909): Confrontation and Compromise.

The article focuses on the history of the challenge of Morocco in the relations between France and Germany during the period 1907–1909. The author draws in French, English, German diplomatic documents and memoirs as well as for the first time introduces scientific materials from the Archive of foreign policy of the Russian Empire, relating to the Moroccan question. It allows to take a fresh look at the relationship between France and Germany not only on the local level in Morocco but in the current system of international relations in the period of increasing hostility between Entente and Triple Alliance. Searching insufficiently known specific episodes, the author managed to identify elements of rivalry and attempts to find compromise between France and Germany, to determine the degree of influence of internal events (for example the civil war in Morocco) and external factors (for example, the Bosnian crisis 1908) on their relationship in sultanate that brought about the conclusion of the agreement. The author concludes that the agreement was a temporary measure to stabilize acute struggle between the two powers for Morocco, and the dynamics of the Franco-German relations in 1907–1909 as sinusoidal in its nature.

Key words: Franco-German rivalry, S. Pichon, M. Ruve, civil war, the Bosnian crisis, M. Hafid, Casablanca incident, Baghdad Railway, the Franco-German agreement in 1909, antagonism between the Entente and the Triple Alliance, the Moroccan question.

E.M. Moiseyeva. The Postmodernist Philosophical Discourse in Japan.

The article outlines the ideas proposed by some key figures of Japanese postmodernism. It is ironic that the main issue of postmodernist philosophical discourse in Japan is whether Japanese culture has already made the shift to post-modernity after going through a modern period. Since paradigmatic cultural theory was developed within the framework of Western science and Western society, this question is closely interconnected with such concepts as national identity, and the problem of universal cultural development. The attempt to analyze their native culture in essentially Western terms which have been made by Japanese philosophers sheds a new light on the originality of Eastern epistemological traditions. The author also suggests original view of the topic based on her understanding of cultural paradigms as discursive fields.

Key words: modernism, postmodernism, postmodernity, modernization in Japan, Kyoto School, Kokugaku.

A.N. Khokhlov. N.Ya. Bichurin and His Studies on Mongolia.

Nikita Yakovlevich Bichurin (1777–1853), known to his contemporaries as a monk named Iakynth, was the founder of Russian Sinology. Possessing unique knowledge of Chinese history and differing extraordinary breadth of scientific interests, he enjoyed a great reputation in Russia and abroad as a researcher and expert on China and Chinese writing. The scientific heritage of N.Ya. Bichurin also includes many works about Mongolia, its history and culture.

Key words: N.Ya. Bichurin (Iakynth), Russian Sinology, study of Mongolia in Russia.

D.V. Streltsov. Electoral Reform in Contemporary Japan.

The introduction of “small constituencies” in 1994 contributed to the radicalization of changes on the Japanese political arena. The absence of significant policy differences between the two dominant parties does not allow the voters to make conscious choices on the base of their ideological preferences. The agenda of the electoral reform includes the search for an optimal combination of the majority and the proportional principles as well as reduction of the difference in the weight of the electors' votes.

Key words: Japan, electoral reform, the majoritarian principle, “floating votes”, weight of vote, proportional representation.

E.V. Dunaeva. Russia and Iran in Contemporary Geopolitics.

In the 1990s, Russia and Iran successfully laid the foundations for interaction and significantly expanded their spheres of cooperation. Their concurring positions and interests over a wide range of global and regional problems facilitated this. At the beginning of the 21st century relations developed unevenly, with periods of active dialogue, rapprochement, and numerous agreements giving way to periods of caution and diverging positions. The degree of these fluctuations depended on global and regional factors as well as the internal circumstances in each country. Russia's participation in international sanctions has aroused discontent in Iran. Despite this the political establishments of both countries continue to demonstrate an interest in developing bilateral relations and to reaffirm their shared geopolitical interests.

Key words: Russo-Iranian relations, the Caspian Sea issue, Iranian nuclear program, Bushehr NPP, international sanctions.

V.N. Shkunov. The Russian Empire's Trade Relations with Africa in the 18th – Early 19th Centuries.

At the beginning of the 18th century Petrovsky reforms captured all spheres of social and economic life of Russia including foreign trade. The emperor aspired to expansion of the foreign trade communications not only with the adjacent countries but also with the remote corners of the planet. Peter the Great was far-sighted, erudite and purposeful person and he was convinced that strengthening of commercial relations of the Russian Empire with the different states of the world will promote its economic, political and military power. The foreign trade interests of the monarch stretched up to Latin and North America and the remote corners of Asia and Africa. Certainly not all the projects of the emperor could come true. Nevertheless in the first quarter of the 18th century the geography of the foreign trade communications of Russia considerably extended. The present article is devoted to development of the commercial relations of the Russian Empire with Africa in 18th – the first half of the 19th century.

Key words: The Russian Empire, Africa, trade links, foreign trade.

A.L. Verchenko. Xinhai Revolution's Events in the Reports of the Russian Consulate in Hankou.

At the beginning of the 20th century the Russian government could not stay aside from the events of Xinhai revolution (1911) and wanted to be well aware of an incipient revolutionary situation in the neighboring country. It regularly received detailed reports on internal political situation in the country from the Russian Embassy in Beijing and more than twenty consular offices opened in different parts of China.

The Imperial Russian Consulate in Hankow appears to have been in the center of revolutionary events of 1911. Analyzing local mass media both in Chinese and English, and the information received from Chinese and foreign citizens, consul Ostroverhov, who worked till May 1912, informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the events in the "Hubei province and nearest areas".

Ostroverhov felt sympathy for revolutionaries and allowed them to hold meetings in his house. After the revolution he served as a mediator at negotiations between the representatives of disputing South and North in China.

The Consulate staff's fine language skills and knowledge of the host country allowed them to give objective analyses of the current situation. The Consulate informed the Embassy and St.-Petersburg's authorities on personnel shifts in Republic of China, gave characteristics of new leaders, sent newly adopted laws, informed about feelings of peoples. Analytical reports of the Consulate can serve as a reliable source for the further researching the history of Xinhai revolution.

Key words: China, Xinhai Revolution, Consulate in Hankou, Ostroverhov.

L. Javkhlant. Mongolia in the Regional Cooperation of the Northeast Asia.

The article focuses on the process of regional cooperation in Northeast Asia and discusses the role of Mongolia in this process. For Mongolia, which is a less developed landlocked country in the region, it is vital to define the course of interaction in the processes of international economic integration, in various forms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the countries of the subregion of Northeast Asia, using its own resource possibilities.

Key words: Mongolia, regional cooperation, Northeast Asia, globalization, integration, natural resources, infrastructure.

F.O. Pleshchunov. Abdallah Quilliam and the Origins of British Islam.

The article is dedicated to the life, work and activities of William Henry (later Abdallah) Quilliam, native Briton who lived in Liverpool during the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries. In the 1880's Quilliam converted to Islam and founded one of the first major Muslim communities in the United Kingdom. Thereby he seriously stoked the spread of this religion in the country. Quilliam also founded in Liverpool one of the first mosques in Britain, opened the Muslim Institute and edited several periodicals about Islam and events in the Muslim world. Quilliam's activities inspired both his contemporaries and many of the people currently living. Today in the United Kingdom there is a new revision of his legacy.

Key words: Abdallah Quilliam, Islam, Britain, Muslims, Liverpool, mosques, Muslim Institute.

Pakhomova M.A. Is there a Future for China in Libya?

The article focuses on contemporary relations between China and Libya. Emphasis rests on the significance of the Chinese impact on The Middle East region. The author aims to concentrate on such aspects of Chinese foreign policy in this region as Chinese positions in Libya on the eve of “Arab Spring”, reduction of Chinese activity and Chinese Government’s response to the Libyan events. The key goal of the study is to investigate the perspectives of development relations between China and Libya after the “Arab Spring”.

Keywords: China, Libya, Arab spring.

The “Nāgarakertāgama”, stanzas 1–7: *The Introd. Article, transl. from Old Javanese and. comment.* by **A.A. Fursova**.

The “Nāgarakertāgama”, an Old Javanese court poem, is the most important and unique historical source describing the Majapahit Empire (1293-ca.1527) during its golden age and hegemony in Java and the Malay archipelago. Its author Prapanca was the supreme Buddhist superintendent at Hayam Wuruk’s (1350–1389) court. This article presents the translation of the first seven stanzas of the “Nāgarakertāgama” from the Old Javanese language into Russian with detailed comments for the first time.

Key words: “Nāgarakertāgama”, manuscript, translation, Majapahit, ruler, Hayam Wuruk.

D.V. Mikulski. Among Algerian Scholars of Literature and Creative Writers (At a conference in the Algerian province of Burgj Bu ‘Arriridj).

The article presents the field ethnocultural material, collected by the author during his scholarly tours to the Ben Hadduga literary conferences, which are annually held in the administrative capital of the Algerian wilaya (province) Burdj Bu ‘Arririgj, situated in the eastern part of the country. The visits were carried out in December 2009 and December 2010. At both conferences the author observed a strong interest exercised by Algerian and other Arab participants to the Russian literature and Russian culture of Imperial and Soviet periods.

The article testifies to the existence of strong traditional elements in the present-day Algerian culture which do play an important role in spite of all the modernizing changes that underwent the Algerian society in the last decades.

Key words: Algerian culture, traditions, literary conferences, Algerian writers, Algerian scholars.

A.I. Yakovlev. The Modernization of the Orients in the 21st Century and Searches of Model of Development.

Current crisis of the world system raises interest to the model of Western industrial society. The majority of Eastern nations are still passing transition from traditional to modern society, thus crisis is exaggerated by a mix of traditional and modern elements of social life.

Eastern and Western nations possess a considerable set of tools for overcoming the crisis but new development goals are to be set and modernization is to be performed for balancing civilizational, demographic, ecological, and energy spheres of social development.

Keywords: East, West, crisis, modernization, tradition.