

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

S.V. Dmitriev, S.L. Kuzmin. What is China? The Middle Kingdom in Historical Myth and Real Policy.

The paper focuses on origin and development of the Sino-centric historical concept. The concept of single China, unified or fragmented, governed during many centuries by various dynasties, which has never been a part of other states, appears to be a historical myth. The term “China” and its analogues have been used for designation of different states though this concept always retained connection with the area of origin and distribution of the Han – *Huaxia* and their ancestors. Official names, ethno-cultural concepts and borders of these states were different. The concept of China at different circumstances was used for different purposes: claims for a world empire, national liberation of the Han (Chinese) people from subjection to foreigners, justifications of internecine fight and/or centralization of their state, claims of foreign states to China as well as justifications for occupation of foreign states by China.

Liao, Jin, Yuan and Qing should be considered not as “dynasties of China established by minority nationalities” but as multinational empires created by non-Chinese people, who incorporated the conquered China, in full or in part, into their states.

The contemporary concept of China as a nation-state is connected with former concepts of China by the area inhabited by the Han. To prove their “rights” to Mongolia, Tibet and East Turkestan, which have never been China, the Han nationalists in the early 20th century proclaimed the new concept of “single Chinese nation” which includes also non-Han people. The People’s Republic of China inherited this concept. The concept of “single Chinese nation” which includes the Mongol, Tibetan and Turkic nationalities seems to be a modern historical myth.

Key words: China, Middle State, state ideology, historical mythology, nationalism

V.A. Tyurin. Batavia: the Town and its Trade (17th–18th Centuries).

Batavia (now Jakarta) founded in 1619 was to serve as a rendezvous point, as a staple port in the Dutch East India Company’s (VOC) trading network but also as the military headquarters in the struggle against the Portuguese and Spanish colonial empires in Asia. Batavia was founded and ruled by a large mercantile corporation which, by a special charter, had acquired a monopoly over the trade in Asia from the States-General of the Dutch Republic. The extraordinary, commerce-oriented character of the town, its strong defenses, its curious multicultural mixture of citizens, and finally its civic architecture made Batavia as “Holland in the tropics”. Seventeenth century visitors were overawed by the military and commercial supremacy of the Dutch in the Indonesian Archipelago. With its large fleet and numerous factories, the VOC was by far the greatest maritime power in Asia of that age, overshadowing all of its European and Asian rivals. The goods from various regions of Asia were first cleared through the Batavian roadstead, demonstrating the central positions of Batavia in the intra-Asian shipping network of the Dutch East India Company. However by the middle of the 18th century, these roles reversed. By that time, the Company’s intra-Asiatic shipping network was gradually disintegrating due to the strong British competition, and Batavia’s status was reduced to that of a regional trading centre in the Indonesian Archipelago. Even within the South-East Asia, that position was challenged by the expanding networks of the English traders, the Chinese junks and the Bugis shipping, all of which were looking for new entrepôts close to the Malacca Straits, the most convenient route between the Bay of Bengal and the South China Sea.

Key words: Batavia, the Dutch East-Indian Company, Inter-Asian trade, Batavian roadstead, harbours administration

M.G. Agapov. Establishment and Development of Trade Relations between the Soviet Union and Jewish Palestine in the 1920s.

Despite the fact that in the 1920-s in the Soviet Union Zionism was condemned as “an instrument of capitalist colonization of Palestine” and “an agent of suppression of Arab revolutionary movement”, trade relations between the Soviet Union and the new Jewish Palestinian community were established at the same time. Soviet export trading associations tried to use Palestine and the “national home for Jewish people” established there under the auspices of United Kingdom to enter other countries in the Middle East. In turn, business circles of the Jewish Palestine were interested in selling their goods in the USSR and buying critical materials there. The pragmatic approach of both parties contributed to the successful development of trade relations between them.

Key words: Middle East, Palestine, Jewish national home, Soviet-Palestinian trade relations, Palestinian Arcos Agency, the USSR

T.G. Emelianenko. Bukharan Jews in Socio-Cultural Space of Central Asia (As Evidenced by Ethnographic Expeditions of the Late 19th – Early 21st Centuries)

The article is based on its author's field materials. It analyses the specifics of Bukharan Jews' economical and socio-cultural adaptation to Tadjik and Uzbek cultural environment, their positions in local economy and mutual ethnic stereotypes of these two ethno-confessional groups whose historical paths were connected during many centuries.

Key words: Bukharan Jews, ethnocultural adaptation, self-conscience, ethnic stereotypes, Middle Asia

Kimitaka Matsuzato. Armenians and Muslims in and around Abkhazia.

Scholars have interpreted Georgia-Abkhazia relations during the last two decades in the context of bipolar confrontations between ethnic Georgians and Abkhazians, allegedly supported by Russia. Yet Abkhazia should be regarded as a magnetic field between various ethnic interests and intentions, rather than a bipolar society in which the pro-Russian Abkhazians dominate over non-Abkhazians, some of whom (namely the Mingrelians) sympathize with Georgia. This essay focuses on transnational minorities (the Armenians and Muslims) in Abkhazia and analyze how their external patrons (the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Turkish Diyanet and the Russian Council of Muftis) dared to decide to help their co-believers in Abkhazia, even challenging the international society accusing Russia's recognition of Abkhazia.

Key words: transnational actors, inter-state relations, the Black Sea frontier, Armenians, Muslims, Armenian Apostolic Church, Turkish Diyanet, Council of Russia's Muftis

N.N. Bektimirova. The Interaction between the Sangha and the Ruling Elites in the 21st Century Cambodia.

With the revival of the Sangha the religious dimension has started to play an important and visible role in the political life of Cambodia. The intention of the country's ruling elites to secure the full backing of the Buddhist community is increasingly apparent. A deliberate demonstration of support for the Sangha and devotion to Buddhism constitutes a key element of the Cambodian People's Party's political image. Extensive patronage and financial backing of the Sangha by members of the ruling elite results in a substantial political involvement of the Buddhist *hierarchs* who are closely linked to existing power structures. Ordinary monks coming primarily from poor peasant families show a critical attitude towards the ruling regime, especially in the capital. Many of them are strongly inclined to support the opposition.

Key words: Cambodia, Buddhism, the Sangha, monks, ruling elite, financial patronage, Cambodian People's Party

N.Yu. Ul'chenko. Socio-Economical Policy of Justice and Development Party of Turkey: from Populism to Popularity.

The active character of the social policy became one of the most important features of the economic course provided by Justice and Development Party (AKP) since it has come to power in Turkey in 2002. The paper focuses on main orientation and reforming principles of social policy. Particular attention is given to the institutions providing various types of social support to the poorest segment of the population. Such kind of support occupies to be extra important in social policy in recent years. According to the author, the active social policy of the authorities should be regarded as a new form of economic populism, rather than a strategy to create a socially oriented market economy in Turkey. The author argues her position by the fact that the process of providing social support is "politicized", as well as the fact that social expenses of such kind lead to delay in solving actual long-term economic tasks – to achieve less dependency ratio of economic growth on external financial sources, to improve the qualitative characteristics of the national labour force.

Key words: Justice and Development Party, Turkey, social policy, economic policy, populism

Discussion. World Economy: Time of Revaluations?

The need for reappraisal of current approaches to world economy is quite evident. That is the reason why the editorial board of Восток "Oriens" has decided to animate a discussion on the article by A. Salitsky and V. Tatsiy¹. In the 2000-s, in the context of the global financial and economic crisis, important shifts in the world economy were observed. The Chinese model of economic development has manifested its sustainability; China became the second in the world in terms of volume of its Gross Domestic Product and the first among the world exporters. In the context of crisis talks on failure of neoliberalism – the mainstream of economics have emerged. However, it

¹ Salitskiy A.I., Tatsiy V.V. World Economy: a Time of Reappraising? // Восток (Oriens), 2011, № 5.

is noteworthy that other economic theories exist (and coexist) with the mainstream such as the Keynesian theory. State intervention in the economy (a characteristic feature of the Chinese model) has helped Western countries to diminish negative consequences of the crisis (it is quite coherent with the neoclassic synthesis conception: when the economic situation is favorable, Neo-liberal theory prevails, and when the “economic turbulence” emerges, Keynesian methods presuming State intervention in the economy are applied).

The article says there is the lack of well-considered appraisals of the current world economy situation. A set of problems arises. Do we really witness a “sunset” of postindustrial economy with the leading place of services as well as of the United States leadership in the world economy? Will the Chinese economic model replace the mainstream of economics? Is there a threat of failure of world financial system, and what number of losers will there be in this case? Will regionalization take place of globalization? These questions are vital from theoretical point of view as well as from practical and political points of view.

Scientists from the Russian Academy of Sciences institutes – the Institute of Oriental Studies, the Institute of the Far East, the Institute of World Economy and International Economic Relations, of the Institute of Asian and African Countries of the Moscow Lomonosov State University give certain answers to these questions. They suppose different approaches to problems discussed focusing on their various aspects. They give an analysis of the Chinese model and the bottlenecks of the Chinese economy, discuss the problems of economic theory; give their appraisal of the world economy situation. The discussion is to be continued in the next issue.

A.Yu. Volovich. Symbolism of the Image of a Frog on Some Vessels of the New Kingdom.

The article investigates semantics of the image of frog on the offering vessels of New Kingdom. Frog is depicted on the bowls, amphorae and lidions that were offerings to pharaoh or gods. These vessels were offered during the New Year ceremonies. Blue frog with plants may have symbolized the water of Nile.

Key words: image of frog, offering vessels, Ancient Egypt, New Kingdom, Nile river

A.K. Shahinyan. Nakhichevan under the Arab Domination.

The administrative belonging of the capital of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic (*Azerb.* Naxçıvan, *Arab.* ناشوان /Nashawa/, *Arm.* ԼՂՀ/ Nakhijevan/, *old-Arm.* Նախիջևան/ Nakhjawan/) under the Arab domination in Azerbaijan, Greater Armenia and in the Southern Caucasus (late 7th – early 10th century) has been a point at issue among scholars. The author argues that the capital of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic under domination of the Arab Caliphate was situated in the borders of the administrative district of Arminiya I (i.e. Armenia). After its abolition in 886 it was already in the borders of the recreated kingdom of Greater Armenia.

Key words: Nakhichevan, Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, Arab Province of Arminiya, Arab and Persian geographers and travellers

E.N. Stepanova. Main Stages in Evolution of Guomindang Gender Policy.

In 1912 Doctor Sun Yixian supported gender equality and persisted that the principle of “gender equality” was enclosed in the Constitution project. In 1924 Guomindang adopted the platform of the First National Convention which proclaimed “emancipation of women rights on the base of the equality principle between man and woman in law, economy, education, society”. Women improvement conditions, foot binding banning and women education received public support. After Guomindang government moving to Taiwan (1949), its policy became more conservative and more authoritarian that was motivated by the need of social order achievement. Taiwan went through dramatic social-economic and political change that made the dual influence on women status in democratic society developing in Taiwan. It should be remembered that authentic personal liberty supposes equality of his/her rights as well as equality of their realizations.

Key words: Zhōngguó Guómíndǎng, gender equality, women status, authentic person liberty, possibilities of rights realization

Publication. Tibetan Grammatical Treatise “Sumcupa”. *The Introd. Article, Transl. from Tibetan and Comment.* by **M.O. Smirnova.**

The article contains the translation of the Tibetan grammatical treatise “Sumcupa”. The article deals with the history of this treatise; briefly describes its structure and terminology. The description of the “Sumcupa” grammatical terms is also given in references.