

## ABSTRACTS

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### POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

***Vadzim Smok. Regional Political Elite of Belarus and Poland: a Comparative Analysis of Hrodna Region and Podlaskie Voivodeship***

The article examines the impact of historical development, political regime and economic structure of Belarus and Poland on the dynamics of formation of regional ruling elite in the two neighbouring regions: Hrodna Region and Podlaskie Voivodeship. A comparative analysis of these three factors is conducted, followed by a comparison of composition of the regional representative bodies. The results show that the employed factors are relevant for explaining the difference of the elite structure. Meanwhile, a similarity of certain parameters is traced, presumably being the result of other type of factors.

**Keywords:** Hrodna Region, Podlaskie Voivodeship, Regional Elite, Democracy, Authoritarianism.

### INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES: HISTORICAL DIMENSION

***Aliėh Dziarnovič (Aleh Dziarnovich). Lithuanian Language in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: between Function and Status***

The article attempts to answer the question why the Lithuanian language, despite its first written fixations since the 16<sup>th</sup> century and a rich tradition of book printing since 1547 (predominantly in Prussia), did not acquire official status in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL). The author sees a possible answer in recognizing the fact that in multiethnic and multicultural GDL society of the 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries a situation of many diglossias existed, when each language had its precisely defined social functions. Unlike bilingualism, diglossia as a sociolinguistic phenomenon requires speaker's evaluation of his own idioms by the "solemn-daily" scale. Two language systems (official and popular) could not be used in the same social sphere.

**Keywords:** Sociolinguistic Situation, Catechization, Book Printing, Official Language, Diglossia, Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

***Andrej Kazakievič, Andrej Asađčy (Andrei Kazakevich, Andrei Asadchy). The Start of Writing in Belarusian. Regional and Social Composition of Belarusian Revival, the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> – Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century***

The article offers the results of the biographical analysis of Belarusian cultural movement representatives, who started their literary or social and political writing in Belarusian language between years 1880 and 1918. Particularly, the geography of birth, the age of joining the cultural movement, social origin,

cause of death and some other parameters are examined. The analysis shows some important regional and social features of the Belarusian movement representatives as a group, and gives a more detailed picture of the nation-building process at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Keywords:** Belarusian Nation, Revival, Cultural Movement, Nation-Building, Social History.

**Zachar Šybieka (Zakhar Shybeko). *Jews in Belarusian National Projects from the Beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century till 1905 (Problem Setting)***

The author studies the political programmes of restoration of Belarusian statehood, which appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in order to show how they saw the role of Jews in this process, how Jewish activists saw Belarusian national movement, and how viable and effective was the Belarusian-Jewish union in the struggle for independent Belarus.

**Keywords:** National Renaissance, National Movement, Russian Empire, Jews, Belarusian-Jewish Relations.

#### FOREIGN POLICY

**Andžej Pukšto, Mantas Visockas. *Relations between the European Union and Belarus in 2004–2012: Contribution of Lithuania***

The paper analyses foreign policy of the European Union towards Belarus and the role of Lithuania in this process. It concludes that the EU countries have not yet reached a complete agreement on the implementation of Eastern Partnership policy and its perspectives. Although the EU has been gradually increasing financial support for the Belarusian opposition and NGOs, however, it lacks a concrete strategy on the allocation of these funds so that tangible results could be achieved. Efforts made by the EU to ensure the continuity of bilateral cooperation are stuck in stagnation, if not on the verge of isolation of Belarus. Lithuania's policy towards Belarus is inconsistent and subject to changes with new policy makers coming into power. Despite the fact that Lithuania solidarises with interests of the EU on Belarus issue, it also reserves some space for the implementation of exclusively national interests.

**Keywords:** Neighbourhood Policy, Eastern Partnership, Belarus–EU Relations, Lithuania–Belarus Relations.

#### REVIEW

**Peter Rožič. *Between Dictatorship and Democracy: 10 Years Later***

Michael McFaul, Nikolai Petrov, and Andrei Ryabov (eds) (2004). *Between Dictatorship and Democracy: Russian Post-Communist Political Reform*. Washington Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

In this review the author re-evaluates the findings of the 2004 book edited by Michael McFaul, Nikolai Petrov, and Andrei Ryabov after ten years of political regime transformation in Russia. It appears particularly interesting in the context of one of the editors' service as ambassador to Russia in 2012–2014.

*Keywords:* Authoritarianism, Democracy, Political Regime, Russia, Democratic Transition.