ABSTRACTS
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Jolanta Miluska
Socio-Cultural Basis of the Process of Identity Formation in Contemporary World

The process of determining one's identity has a specific historical context. It proceeds in given social and cultural circumstances which differentiate its course and the attributes of identity as well as decide about the kind of problems that need to be faced in creating or accepting one's identity. The currently ongoing processes of modernization and globalization, accompanied by transformations of the political system in various regions of the world (Central-Eastern Europe among others) make it possible to formulate the problem of the impact of society, especially its culture, specific values, norms and patterns of behaviour on youth and the way in which the latter solve their fundamental developmental task, viz. the determination of their identity.

Marian Golka
Manipulation and Democratization in Information Society

Contemporary information society is created by old media (press, radio and television) and new ones (connected with digital generation, transmission and reception of information). Traditional media in particular are not free from manipulation, i.e. intentional attempts to change the recipients' attitudes while blunting their criticism. The internet renders manipulation difficult but this does not mean that it has a beneficial effect on democratization processes. In this respect its influence is limited, or rather contributes to so-called sham democracy.

Marcin Adamczak
Strain in Transatlantic Relations over the War in Iraq. Theoretical Perspective

The article deals with turbulence in transatlantic relations over the war in Iraq. The author examines these developments in the perspective of two separate international relations theories: (neo)realism and social constructivism, whose main assumptions are briefly presented. The article tries to answer the following questions: How is the current state of transatlantic relations perceived from the point of view of these theoretical systems? Are they able to propose some non-trivial explanations? Was the post-Cold War tension in transatlantic realations predictable on the basis of these theories? And finally - do they offer predictions of the future course of events?

Krystyna Michałowska-Gorywoda
Constitutional Treaty as a Revisiontreaty of the Treaties Establishing the European Union

The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe adopted by the European Convention on 13 June and 10 July 2003, submitted to the president of the European Council in Rome on 18 July

2003 and signed on 29 October by Member States establishes a better division of Union and Member State competences; establishes a merger of the Treaties and the attribution of legal personality to the Union; establishes a simplification of the Union's instruments of action; establishes the necessary measures to improve the structure and enhance the role of each of the Union's institutions; establishes the weighted votes system - QMV - (qualified majority voting).

Janusz J. Węc
Constitutional Crisis in the European Union

The subject matter of the analysis is the political crisis in the European Union resulted from the rejection of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe of 29 October 2004 in constitutional referendum in France (29 May 2004) and Holland (1 June 2005). In the first part of the article the author presents fundamental assumptions of constitutional reform of European Union. The second part of the analysis focuses the process of ratification of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe. In the last part of the article the author tries to find the answer, what is the essence of the constitutional crisis in the European Union. What is more the author considers three different way of issue of such crisis.

Łukasz Bartkowiak
The European Union Towards Western Balkans and Turkey

The article deals with the policy of the European Union towards Western Balkans and Turkey. The issues discussed include the united Europe's engagement in the stabilization of the Balkans, reforms implemented in particular countries in the region, as well as the European aspirations of individual states. The complex problem of the EU's relations with Turkey is also tackled. On account of religion and political culture Turkey was, is and will probably still long be perceived as a country that does not meet the standards of Western Europe. The author draws attention to the fact that Turkey's integration raises enormous controversies among citizens and politicians alike, whereas the EU is not yet ready to receive the countries of the Western Balkans.

Wanda Wyrwińska
European Union - Institution - Man. Why Can Integration Raise Fear and Dread?

The terror of integration is inherent in the very process of institutionalization: it is a fear of the consequences of the loss of human subjectivity, or putting it differently, of the objectification of the citizen - a fear that bureaucracy will replace the sense of human solidarity. One can say Weber's message about man ceasing to be the "master" and gradually turning into a "servant" is not far from becoming real, similarly as Jonas' claim of the "urge forward", which however does not stop resounding in human nature. The European family today is called "an institution modeled on the state", and not described in terms of bonds and relations. The dread is amplified by legally sanctioned modes of coercion and violence as inseparable correlates of formal institutions of common life. The European Union as an institution in "macro" scale can contribute to a sense of alienation and confusion of the human being in the world of public life.

Grzegorz Chojnacki
The Relation Between Faith and Reason. Two Wings of the Human Spirit

The relation between faith and reason is one of man's deepest existential concerns, as everyone seeks in some way to attain certainty about the meaning of one's life, based on the truth about

oneself. John Paul II and Edith Stein are in the mainstream of this quest since both take up reflection on the human spirit which "rises on two wings" - faith and reason, in the attempt to know the truth, not partial but absolute, that takes into account the truth of particular sciences, philosophical truth and religious truth, so as to show the value of seeking the truth as such. Faith and reason start from different points of reference and use different methods of cognition, but they can enrich each other because these two distinct orders ultimately lead to a knowledge of God - the creator of all truth.

Witold Ostant
Fighting Terrorism in Contemporary World

September 11, 2001 proved a turning point in the perception of national security. The series of terrorist attacks carried out on the territory of the USA, verified and confirmed the need to tighten international cooperation in the fight against global terrorism. In order for the cooperation to be efficient it should resort to a full range of accessible means, from legal solutions to collaboration of specialized intelligence services, prosecution and counteracting threats. The article shows how much has already been done in the area of fighting terrorism and how many issues still remain open. Without solving them it is impossible to counteract terrorism effectively, respecting international regulations and norms that have been adopted over the last decades.

Ryszarda Formuszewicz
Austria's Presidency in the First Half of 2006

In the first half of 2006 Austria held presidency of the European Union for the second time. The scale of challenges to be faced by a country included in the category of small member states was defined above all by a crisis of the EU aggravated by the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty by France and Holland, and in internal relations by a strong Euro-skepticism of the Austrian society. The key issues of this presidency were: debate on the future of the European Union, negotiations on the ultimate financial framework of the EU, the process of enlargement and in the sphere of economy - fostering growth and employment. The international situation also brought to the foreground the problem of energy security. On the whole, Austrian presidency met with positive reactions.

Karolina Wierczyńska
The Cyprus Conflict in the Context of Turkey Accession to the European Union

The article *Conflict in Cyprus in context of Turkish accession to the European Union* describes what problems will have to face Turkey to join the Union. The first part focuses on the history of conflict in Cyprus and the international attempts made to solve the problem. The second part of the essay describes the reaction of the European Court of Human Rights for Turkish violations, finally the article presents Turkish attempts to join the Union and conditions issued by the European Council which have to be fulfilled by Turkey. For example Turkey will have to settle real democracy, implement human rights obligations, or solve the Kurdish question.