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Paweł Świeżak

The Customs Union created in 2010, undergoing transformation into the Common Economic Space since 2012, whereas starting from 2015 (according to declarations) – into a Euro-Asian Economic Union, constitutes a qualitatively new phenomenon in the immediate neighbourhood of the Republic of Poland. This brings about the need for reflection to what extent it is a project referring to the Soviet past, and to what extent it utilizes experiences of other integration-based groups as well as about the proportions between its economic and political dimension. The Customs Union is a challenge for the enlargement processes which have taken place in Europe for more than twenty years and which have had no alternative so far. Therefore, defining perspectives and the direction of development of the Euro-Asian project constitutes one of the major tasks faced by Poland and the EU in late 2013 and early 2014.

Selected Aspects of American-Israeli Defence Co-operation: History and the Current State of Affairs in the Context of the US Policy in the Middle East

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Przemysław Pacuła

Although current American-Israeli relations seem to be tense, the alliance between the two states is still based on firm foundations: co-operation is mutually beneficial, and both Israel and the United States have no valuable alternative in order to attain their interests. A factor conducive to further cementing of mutual relations is engagement of American armaments industry in Israel and intensive intelligence co-operation, as well as co-operation between special forces fighting terrorist groups. Hence, one should assume that irrespective of discrepancies American –Israeli co-operation will be continued in the future.

From Strong Foundations to a Safe Future – the First National Security Strategy of Australia

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Izabela Krawczyk

The National Security Strategy of Australia entitled "Strong and Safe" constitutes the next step towards strengthening and adapting Australian security policy to the challenges of the contemporary international environment. While Europe seems to be plunging into strategic stagnation, the Asia and Pacific Region is becoming an area of intensive development and change. The dynamics of that process is largely dependent on the United States shifting its pivot to the region, and by the growing influence of China. Australia, not devoid of its own regional ambitions, co-operates with both super powers at the same time and tries to take maximum advantage of the ongoing change in order to strengthen its position in the region and realize its own national interests as effectively as possible.

Immigration Policy of the Russian Federation as a Tool for Shaping Bilateral Relations With the Post-Soviet States of Central Asia

Ewa Mazur-Cieślik

Just like many other European countries also Russia is facing a demographic collapse. Birthrate falls systematically and the situation is further exacerbated by Russians, especially the young ones, emigrating to West-European states. The shortage of workforce is becoming ever more perceptible. Sectors with lowest wages cope with staffing vacant posts only thanks to employing labour immigrants mainly from the post-Soviet space and China. At the same time Russian authorities are tightening the immigration policy and embarking upon a seemingly counter-economic deportation of a few million-strong group of immigrants who have extended their stay over the deadline indicated in the decision issued by the immigration services (the so called expired stay).

Anarchic Terrorism – Essence, Tactics, Organization

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Elżbieta Posłuszna

This paper aims at characterizing contemporary anarchism from the ideological, tactical and organizational perspective. The author's intention is to attain certain practical goals, namely elaborate means of counteracting the development of anarchic extremism and terrorism, as well as work out tools which will allow to fight its most dangerous demonstrations more effectively than to date. Among others the paper includes a suggestion that in order to counteract destructive activities of the contemporary radical anarchist groups which are largely decentralized, or function according the model "resistance without leadership", it is time also new methods of fighting them were considered, based for instance on non-hierarchically organized forces.

International Security in 2012 as Evaluated by SIPRI Yearbook – Discussion and Commentary

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Zdzisław Lachowski

Subsequent editions of the SIPRI Yearbook constitute a commonly acknowledged barometer of the state of global security. The Stockholm-based Institute collects, analyses and publishes data in the field of armaments, disarmament, as well as selected areas of security, trying to paint possibly most objective picture of the current situation and trends in this significant dimension of international life. The Yearbooks are centred around hard security (the military one or the one connected with the military sphere). They largely represent a traditional approach but are at the same time more precise in comparison to the approaches and definitions which make "soft" elements a part of the security discourse. Despite its relative depreciation, the military dimension remains to be at the core of security. The subject matter of the discussed SIPRI Yearbook 2013, sketchily outlined in this paper, paints a picture of a limited progress and an accompanying lack of vision of the objective and shape of the future security order. It is not feasible to present detailed analyses in this paper. Hence the author has focused his attention on the selected important elements.

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