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BRINGING PYONGYANG BACK: THE PROSPECTS FOR ESTABLISHING A MULTILATERAL COOPERATION MECHANISM IN EAST ASIA

ABSTRACT In this interconnected world, the multilateral mechanisms become more and more present and relevant. However, East Asia is a notable exception with no such institutionalised tool. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remains the most troubling state and the main reason why collaboration has not resulted in strengthening the stability in East Asia. Although a formal dialogue called the Six Party Talks exists, it currently remains in deadlock after two nuclear tests conducted by Pyongyang in 2009. The actions that took place throughout last year have once again drawn greater attention to the Korean Peninsula, raising the possibility of resuming the negotiations. Nevertheless, the question about what this new agenda should include remain relevant. The purpose of this paper is to outline international relations in Northeast Asia from both theoretical and practical perspective and provide ideas on what can be done to facilitate the cooperation between the states.

KEYWORDS *Cooperation, East Asia, North Korea, Security in the Asia-Pacific, Six-Party Talks*

INTRODUCTION

From the global point of view, East Asia is a region that constantly grows in power. The main reason for this is the accumulation of vital interests of the most relevant state actors within the international system. The significant number of the world's population, capital as well as innovation is rooted in this area. The number of linkages between the

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WIĘZIENIE W GUANTANAMO JAKO PRZYKŁAD BIOPOLITYCZNEGO PARADYGMATU GLOBALNEJ WOJNY Z TERRORYZMEM

ABSTRACT Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp as an Example of Biopolitical Framework of Global War on Terror

The aim of this article is to introduce the problem of indefinite detainees of Guantanamo Bay into the framework of biopolitical interpretation of Global War on Terror (GWOT). From the very first days of GWOT, the George W. Bush administration mobilized all available resources to fight with everyone suspected as a potential terrorist in all areas, including legal area. The intentional consequence of this fight was the elimination of political rights for indefinite detainees. Potentially risky individuals were suspected in the context of normal law – what can be perceived as a visible result of sovereign's decisions and actions – and were transformed into bare lives, figure of *homini sacri*. *Homo sacer* means an individual being excluded from the society and social order; it means the situation of being deprived of personal political rights, where the essence of human existence is diminished to physical aspects exclusively. According to Giorgio Agamben and his concept of biopolitics, the camp per se, is the paradigm of modernity. It is the place of permanent production of bare lives, the materialized place of state of exception, the place of law suspension. In the context of post-9/11, Guantanamo detention camp became the pure exemplification of Agamben's biopolitical camp.

KEYWORDS *Biopolitics, Global War on Terror, Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp, Indefinite Detentions, Giorgio Agamben*

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ROUSSEAU'S GENERAL WILL

ABSTRACT The advance of populist parties in the European Union can be interpreted as the sign of an expanding “frustration” about representation in a political sphere oppressed by economic austerity. In this context, the modern philosophical roots of an alternative conception of democracy, based on direct participation, appear to be worth of a careful scrutiny. This paper focuses on the notion of the General Will as described in *The Social Contract*. After a critical review of the antithetical conceptions of the General Will suggested by Rousseau, a coherent interpretation is proposed, obtained through an analysis of the text taken as a “self-sufficient” unity: the General Will is pure “ambition” for an unknown common good, shared by all the members of a political community. However, it is argued that the participatory “machinery” of General Will is fundamentally incapable of resolving three serious problems that undermine the foundations of Rousseau’s ideal “République”, namely, **1.** How the citizens can identify the common good without errors; **2.** How the citizens can develop an ethical dimension by themselves, without any external influence; **3.** How single individuals, seen not as active citizens but as passive subjects of the State, can protect themselves from the abuses of power.

KEYWORDS *Rousseau, general will, participatory democracy, political representation, moral relativism*

INTRODUCTION

One of the long lasting consequences of the global financial crisis that hit our interconnected world in 2007 is the growing tension between the traditional forms of representation in western democracies based on “free and fair elections”, and the unconstrained power of supranational economic and political agents. Especially in the countries of

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AGAINST THE CURRENT

A REMARKABLE LITERARY DISCOURSE ON WESTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IN TERMS OF THE SELF AND THE OTHER¹

ABSTRACT The political reality of the European Union is not reflected in the general discourse on the relationship between Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe, which is characterized by an adverse attitude towards the latter. This impacts identity construction on the European level, where Central and Eastern Europe has long been regarded as the “Other” against which the European “self” was defined. However, a new discourse on this relationship has emerged in literary works written by scholars and journalists that are able to take an overarching perspective. The present study analyses four publications to see how the relationship between Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe is portrayed in terms of the self and the Other, employing the Discourse Historical Approach and a spectrum of the self and the Other perspectives. It emerges that the discussed authors share a discourse which respects differences, focuses on similarities as well as differences and shows an awareness of the interwovenness of the narratives of the self and the Other. This new, shared discourse holds directions for the further development of a European-wide discourse that includes the same notions of respect and the interwovenness of narratives, and which could in turn influence European identity construction.

¹ This article is an abbreviated version of the Thesis “Against the Current – a remarkable literary discourse on Western Europe and Central and Eastern Europe in terms of self and Other” presented in June 2014 at the Jagiellonian University and Groningen University in the context of the Euroculture Erasmus Mundus Master.

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Wielki człowiek jest wielki nie dlatego, że jego cechy osobiste nadają indywidualne oblicze wielkim wydarzeniom historycznym, lecz dlatego, że obdarzony jest właściwościami, które czynią go najbardziej zdolnym do służby na rzecz wielkich potrzeb społecznych swego czasu [...].

Jerzy Plechanow

KONCEPCJA WIELKIEGO CZŁOWIEKA – WYBRANE ZAGADNIENIA¹

ABSTRACT The idea of the Great Man – selected issues

The paper analyses the importance of an individual in history making. It summarizes both psychological and historical reasons of people's admiration towards specific individuals who are considered to have enormous influence on history. It presents research in different kinds of scientific fields with the emphasis on political science. The paper compares a number of approaches to the Great Man Theory, stressing the importance of Thomas Carlyle's and Georgij Plechanow's interpretations. It presents counterarguments and theories claiming a decline in the importance of the individual *per se* and the individual in history making.

KEYWORDS *The Great Man Theory, importance of an individual, history making, authority, Thomas Carlyle*

¹ Niniejszy artykuł stanowi rozwinięcie wątków zawartych w pracy magisterskiej autorki, obronionej w Instytucie Nauk Politycznych i Stosunków Międzynarodowych Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego w 2015 r., zatytułowanej „Klemens von Metternich i Otto von Bismarck – porównanie wizji politycznej i rozważania nad rolą jednostki w historii”. Promotorem pracy był dr hab. Piotr Kimla, a recenzentem dr hab. Barbara Stoczewska.