

A b s t r a c t s

Positioning Armenia, Ukraine, Poland, Russia

Georgi Derluguian

A Small World War

The Ethnic Cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh

Azerbaijan has expelled the Armenian population from Karabakh. Turkey supported Baku, and Moscow gave a free hand to the little brother of its “rival partner” Ankara. The Armenian catastrophe seems to be just another unpleasant episode in a faraway region, but it is proving to be a piece in the mosaic of world events.

Otto Luchterhandt

The Fall of Artsakh

Historical tragedy and alarm signal for the Republic of Armenia

By attacking the de facto state of Artsakh in violation of international law, Azerbaijan brought about its downfall. After the surrender of its troops, the entire Armenian population fled in a large exodus. Responsibility also lies with Russia, which was obliged to protect the enclave and its population and was in a position to do so with the “peace-building contingent” stationed there. But the entire international community also bears responsibility, because it ignored the Karabakh Armenians’ right to self-determination and the prohibition on the use of force, which is rooted in customary international law. Armenia now finds itself in a precarious situation. Not only does the country have to integrate 100,000 refugees. Azerbaijan is making further demands and emphasising them with aggressive behaviour.

Roland Götz

The EU–Azerbaijan Energy Partnership

The Expansion of the Southern Gas Corridor

The EU Commission is seeking the expansion of the southern gas corridor, which runs from the Caspian Sea via Azerbaijan to Southeastern Europe. This is to replace natural gas imports from Russia. Turkmenistan is also offering itself to the EU as a supplier of natural gas. The argument in favour of importing gas from Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan via pipeline is that significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions are generated than when importing liquid gas from other regions of the world. However, a deepening of the energy partnership with the EU would elevate the financial and political status of Azerbaijan, which is an authoritarian state and is behaving aggressively towards Armenia. Considerable investment is required to extract and transport the additional volumes of gas. To this end, investors must first be found.

Kai-Olaf Lang

Upheaval at the Ballot Box

The Elections in Poland and the New Government's Policies

In Poland's parliamentary elections in mid-October 2023, the national-conservative government was voted out of office. The broad opposition alliance was able to mobilize many voters, which led to a high voter turnout. The defeated PiS, whose supporters are found mainly among older people and in rural areas, failed to do so. Demographic trends also played a role, by contrast voter migration almost none. The new government now wants to reverse the PiS-era restructuring of the state and attend to Poland's rule of law. This is to lead to Poland receiving blocked EU funds as well. In German-Polish relations, the upheaval at the ballot box has opened up the opportunity for a new start. The new government does not consider German and Polish interests to be incompatible. However, under the new Polish government, there will still be differences, for example, in environmental and security policy.

OI'ga Pashkova

“Defenders of the Fatherland”

The Militarisation of Schools in Donetsk and Luhansk

Parts of the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk have been occupied by Russia since 2014. The occupiers there are trying to bind the people to their regime. One means is to ideologically influence young people in schools. They are to be reared as „defenders of the fatherland, their Ukrainian sense of self to be erased. The regions' schools have been integrated into the Russian school system. Moreover elements of Soviet schooling have been reintroduced. This can be seen in the canon of subjects such as literature, history, and social studies, which are intended to instil Russian patriotism and loyalty to the “people's republics”. Physical education has been militarized, and a new subject, military education, has been introduced.

Nikolay Mitrokhin

Russia's War against Ukraine

Weekly Reports from Summer and Autumn 2023

In June 2023, Ukraine began a counteroffensive, which took months of preparation, with the aim of reclaiming all areas of the country occupied by Russia. This was unsuccessful. Ukrainian troops were unable to break through the lines of defence, which the occupiers had built up over months. At the same time, the Ukrainians must prevent the occupying army from advancing further. Ukraine has had successes in the war on the Black Sea. The dominance of the Russian fleet has been broken. The air war, which is being waged by both sides, is characterized in particular by supply issues and a race in technology. There is no end to the war in sight.

Anna Veronika Wendland

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Theatre of War and Test Case for Reactor Safety

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is the first war in human history in which civilian nuclear facilities have been attacked. The Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is a theatre of war and a test case for reactor safety under wartime conditions. It is representative of the safety concerns facing the other similarly constructed nuclear power plants in Ukraine. Numerous abnormal operating situations have taken place in Zaporizhzhia as a result of

the war. The staff must ensure the safety of the facility under the terror of the occupiers. Emergency situations have so far gone smoothly. However, there is concern that there will be a major reactor accident in Zaporizhzhia. The fear of such an accident is also a tool of hybrid warfare.

Felix Ackermann**Post in Lithuania****A Little Regional History, Not Just for the German Armed Forces**

The German Armed Forces have been present in Lithuania since 2017. Germany is the framework nation in NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence, which includes 1,700 soldiers from Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and the Czech Republic. It is stationed in Rukla, near the county seat of Jonava. The historical background behind this military presence includes the German attack on the Soviet Union, during which Jonava was largely destroyed in June 1941. A few weeks later, the Wehrmacht enabled the murder of over 2,100 members of the Jewish community. Jews from the Kaunas Ghetto were still providing forced labour on the military training grounds in Gaižiūnai in 1942-1943. Two other disasters shaped the history of Jonava in the 20th century: Soviet deportations and the environmental disaster at the Azotas chemical plant.

Ada Raev**The Term *École de Paris*****The Displacement of East European Jewish Artists from the Modern Canon**

Since the start of the 20th century, artistic life in Paris has been marked by a vital, productive coexistence and cooperation between French and foreign artists. Many of them had come to France from Eastern Europe and decisively shaped the contours of modern art. This art scene was called the *École de Paris*. Socio-political developments after the First World War, rising anti-Semitism, the German occupation, and the Holocaust had a massive effect on the art world. Jewish artists from Eastern Europe in particular were excluded from the *École de Paris* and eliminated from the collective consciousness. Only recently has the contribution made by East European Jewish artists to the canon of Western modernity been rediscovered.

Aleksandr Morozov
Russia's Free Society in Exile
Politicians, Civil Rights Activists, Journalists, Artists

Since the start of Putin's massive war of aggression against Ukraine began, large parts of Russia's organized civil society, the opposition, and independent journalism have migrated abroad. The opposition network in exile is diverse, committed, and productive. So far, no political representation has crystallised that could present itself as an alternative to the Kremlin. This is not needed at the moment. The task of the opposition is to retain ideas and knowledge, to educate people about the war and the dictatorship, and to provide orientation. As a result of the war and the failure of current policies, there will be destabilization and chaos in Russia. Then, there will be a need for an effective opposition that has built up trust in order to use this second chance to democratize Russia.

Norbert P. Franz
Pop Culture Putinism
Russia's "Shaman" Rocks for the Fatherland and for War

In the war against Ukraine conducted by Putin's Russia, representatives of the easy muse have also been forced to take a position. With his pathos-soaked hits and stadium-filling performances, Yaroslav Dronov alias Shaman has turned into Putin's most important outlet for propaganda in the pop and rock scene. Shaman's texts and the imagery of his videos are collages of proven topoi from the Russian and Soviet traditions, from the beauty and vastness of the Russian land and the Russian soul, to unconditional patriotism and the voluntary hero's death. Criticism of Shaman is criticism of Putin and therefore dangerous.