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**RUSSIA COERCES, BUT THE BALTIC STATES PERSIST:
THE IMPORTANCE OF INITIATIVES FOR INTEGRATION
AND COOPERATION**

ARŪNAS MOLIS, GIEDRIUS ČESNAKAS, JUSTINAS JUOZAITIS

After 27 years of independence and 13 years of EU membership, the Baltic States remain operating within the boundaries of the synchronous IPS/UPS region. Until the end of 2014, the Baltic States were completely dependent on decisions made by Russia on the supply of natural gas and on setting the price of the resources. It was common for the Baltic States to receive formal or informal requirements of political nature during the negotiations on the supply of gas. Neither belonging to the same BRELL power system, nor the transit of gas or electricity to Kaliningrad created any reciprocity in these relations. In other words, the transit conditions did never become an object or the key factor in the negotiations of such projects as the Kaliningrad and Ostrovets nuclear power plants or the Nord Stream gas pipeline. Overall, energy relations between the Baltic States and Russia have determined negative consequences for the countries of the region: higher wholesale gas prices, supply disruptions due to political, technical and other reasons, political blackmailing etc. Nevertheless, recent developments and the implementation of the projects linked with the consolidation of energy independence provoke optimism – the Baltic States seem to be resisting Russian pressure quite successfully.

**QUANTUM MIND THEORY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:
BETWEEN ILLUSION AND SCIENCE**

IEVA SKURDAUSKAITĖ

This article concentrates on 3 key questions: 1) How does quantum mind theory challenge positivist thinking in international relations? 2) How does

it broaden/narrow our current understanding of international relations – namely, what is the relationship between quantum mind theory and other postpositivist theories? 3) How does quantum mind theory impact the ways in which we analyze international relations? The analysis of the challenges posed to classical thinking and a comparison of the differences as well as the similarities with critical theory, postmodernism and constructivism reveal that quantum mind theory is not yet a new social sciences paradigm or a valid independent theory, but that it could be used as a theoretical tool of postmodernism. On the other hand, there are a variety of objects and discussions in the field international relations that can be analyzed using the quantum mind theory: quantum entanglement through language, global society and the collective mind, terrorism and its impact on global conflicts and communication, quantum diplomacy and others.

**POLITICAL RHETORIC IN SOCIAL INTERACTION:
A CASE STUDY OF INGRIDA ŠIMONYTĖ'S
FACEBOOK ACTIVITY**

GIEDRĖ VAIČEKAUSKIENĖ

This article analyzes the role of political rhetoric in social interaction with the public on the internet when considering public issues. Today Facebook, a new platform for political communication, is seen as a media platform where citizens are provided with abundant information about politics and society. As the media of the social network is not editorial, the politicians themselves are responsible for the broadcast of their personal rhetoric, telling and creating confidence in politics. This article presents a qualitative study. It includes an analysis of the rhetoric of Ingrida Šimonytė, a member of the Seimas of Lithuania of the 2016–2020 term, who is also a former Minister of Finance, while constructing her self-representation to the “friends” found on the social network on her personal Facebook account. During the research, it was established that Ingrida Šimonytė’s rhetoric on public issues discussed include the following topics: a) Criticism of personalities of the governing majority; b) Criticism of her colleagues – members of the Seimas; c) Tax, state treasury issues; d) Issues with the city of Vilnius. The way that issues are framed by the member of the Seimas provides a rich arsenal of rhetorical arguments: ranging from authentic sentences to rough, non-standard

vocabulary. The verbal *ethos* of Ingrida Šimonytė as a speaker is ironic, and the shared information of private nature is also full of auto-irony.

IS MODERN DEMOCRACY REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE?

GINTAS KARALIUS

The object of this article is to highlight an implicit normative contradiction of modern democracy between the egalitarian principle of sovereignty of the people and the hierarchical model of political representation of the very same people. The argument follows from the political theory of Montesquieu and from his conceptual framework. Three contemporary interpretations of Montesquieu are presented and critically evaluated in order to demonstrate the practical relevance of the structural contradiction within democratic representation. The article argues that the lack of legitimacy of elected officials in parliamentary democracies cannot be explained only by social parameters. A satisfactory explanation must include a normative analysis of the structural tension between the democratic idea of the rule of the people and its practical implementation through a model of representation that was historically inherited from predemocratic, monarchic regimes. This article suggests that contemporary theories about democracy, as well as discussions about democratic legitimacy, would benefit a lot if Montesquieu's original thought – that democratic political representation needs non-egalitarian, social ideas – would be taken into account.

STATE FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES AS A CHANCE FOR HEALING THE PARTY SYSTEM: POLISH EXPERIENCE AND UKRAINIAN REALITIES

OKSANA BALASHOVA, TETIANA SYDORUK

The process of state financing of the political parties in Poland and Ukraine has been analyzed in this article. The authors have studied and compared the theoretical foundations of the Polish and Ukrainian legislation in the sphere of how does the state financing of its political parties function. Comparing the experience of state financing of political parties in Poland and Ukraine, the authors have distinguished a number of direct and indirect

positive consequences in the party system of Poland. It has been determined that in Ukraine, in turn, considering the lack of legal and public sources of financing for the political parties, political and economic spheres are closely interdependent, which significantly impedes the qualitative consolidation of the party system in general. The authors have concluded that the positive effect of the state financing its political parties is primarily reflected in an increase in the level of openness in how the political parties function, the transparency of the parties' financial activities, the independence of the party system and the political transparency of civil society.