**ACADEMIC**

**The US Factor in Post-Cold War China-Russia Relations**

Tao Wenzhao, Xu Shengwei | International Politics

"The end of the Cold War has made international relations more complicated rather than simpler. As realism predicts, it did not end competition for power between China, Russia, and the USA. However, realism alone is far from enough to convincingly explain China-Russia relations. China’s progressive rise did not incur balancing from Russia..."

**The Structure of Social Trust in Postindustrial Cities of Central and Eastern Europe**

Pavel Iuzefovich Starosta, Kamil Vladimirovich Brzeziński, et al | Sociological Research

"...Sociological studies in cities in a number of Central and Eastern European countries have demonstrated the complex consequences of modernization in the lives of urban communities, including lower economic potential, an increase in unemployment, tension in people's lives, intensifying criminal elements, growing internal and external migration..."

**Russian-Turkish Cooperation in Syria: Geopolitical Alignment With Limits**

Seçkin Köstem | Cambridge Review of International Affairs

"This article argues that the concept of alignment best captures the various forms of security cooperation taking shape in different regions of the world and is useful to explain Russian-Turkish security cooperation in Syria. It offers a detailed account of the origins and key components of Russian-Turkish geopolitical alignment in Syria."

**Immature Leadership: Donald Trump and the American Presidency**

Daniel W. Drezner | International Affairs

"...The powers of the presidency have become so enhanced that even comparatively weak and inexperienced leaders can execute dramatic policy shifts. The formal checks on presidential power, from the legislative, judicial and executive branches have all eroded. Similarly, the informal checks on the presidency had also degraded before Trump's inauguration."

**The Making of Postwar Japan: A Speculative Essay**

Kenneth B. Pyle | The Journal of Japanese Studies

"Once primarily a field for the other social sciences, postwar Japan is attracting increasing historical analysis... From the perspective of international history, it was the victors' controversial and unprecedented goal of unconditional surrender and the resulting subordination of Japan in the U.S. world order that framed this period and shaped its political and social movements..."

**China’s “Belt and Road” Economic Diplomacy in the Persian Gulf: Strategic Hedging Amidst Saudi-Iranian Regional Rivalry**

Jeremy Garlick, Radka Havlová | Journal of Current Chinese Affairs

"To implement the trade and infrastructure connectivity goals of the BRI and to secure the continued flow of diversified energy supplies, China needs to boost relations with both regional powerhouses, Iran and Saudi Arabia, without alienating either of them or the regional hegemon, the United States. The resulting strategy of strategic hedging is based in the Chinese approach to economic diplomacy, which utilises Chinese commercial actors in the service of national strategic objectives..."
The Moral Economy of Militarism: Peasant Economy, Military State and Chinese Capitalism in the Wa State of Myanmar
Hans Steinmüller | Social Anthropology
"If the moral economies of underprivileged communities are defined in opposition to the rationality of political economy, it is easy to overlook the moral justifications of market and state. War economies and military states, however, force us to look at the nodes of moral and economic action that connect the powerful and the powerless..."

BOOKS

First-Class Passengers on a Sinking Ship: Elite Politics and the Decline of Great Powers
Richard Lachmann | Verso Books
"The author traces the transformation of US politics from an era of elite consensus to present-day paralysis combined with neoliberal plunder and explains the paradox of an American military with an unprecedented technological edge unable to subdue even the weakest enemies..."

The Syrian War: Between Justice and Political Reality
Hilly Moodrick-Even Khen | Cambridge University Press
"This book raises voices from the Middle East and beyond not often heard within the research context of the Syrian War. The book sets the factual and legal framework for the conflict, then focuses on the implications of the conflict for the Syrian neighbourhood; and finally analyses possible post-conflict scenarios."

A Specter Haunting Europe: The Myth of Judeo-Bolshevism
Paul Hanebrink | Harvard University Press
"This myth - that Communism was a Jewish plot to destroy the nations of Europe - was a paranoid fantasy, and yet fears of a Jewish Bolshevik conspiracy took hold during the Russian Revolution and spread across Europe..."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Precarious Workers and Neoliberal Narratives in Post-Revolutionary Iran: Top-Down Strategies and Bottom-Up Responses
M. Stella Morgana | Middle East Institute
"How did the Islamic Republic of Iran's dominant narratives over labor evolve since the 1979 revolution? What paved the way to neoliberal discourses, particularly since the 1990s?"

Italy’s Political Upheaval and the Consequences of Inequality
Mario Pianta | Intereconomics
"Political upheaval, with the dangerous rise of the far right - in Italy and Europe - is likely to be stabilised when politics and policies again turn their attention to the priorities of the majority of impoverished voters, with a focus on reducing inequalities, unemployment and casualisation."

A European Destiny
Michael Foley | Dublin Review of Books
"Though Macron is keen to take over the leadership of the EU, he fails to see the centrality of the EU to so many Balkan countries, and their quest to be a real part of Europe. One wonders if he views the Balkans as a violent and irrational place full of terror and assassinations and not really part of Europe at all."

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Towards a Multi-Level Strategy for EU External Cultural Relations: Bringing Cities on Board
Hannah Abdullah, Jérémie Molho | European University Institute
"The exponential rise in transnational city networks since the early 2000s demonstrates how cities have stepped up to form transnational alliances around an increasingly broader set of issues that were traditionally the domain of nation-states."
Why and How To Mount a Strong, Trilateral Response To China's Innovation Mercantilism

Nigel Cory, Robert D. Atkinson | Information Technology & Innovation Foundation

"China first used mercantilist policies to gain advantage in low-cost, labor-intensive manufacturing. Now it is doubling down with a formula of 'innovation mercantilism 2.0' to dominate a wide array of advanced industries."

An Overview of Corruption and Anti-Corruption in Saudi Arabia

Kaunain Rahman | Transparency International

"Systemic and ingrained forms of corruption such as patronage, clientelism and nepotism are likely to continue to ensure a high degree of impunity for those at the very top."

VIDEOS

What Next for Europe and China?


"This seminar [explores] how Europe's relations with China are potentially undergoing significant changes [with two talks on] Europe's China strategy [and] Germany and the Huawei debate."

Once Upon a Time in Another America

Keith Krumwiede | University of Nebraska–Lincoln

"[This talk] presents experiments in architectural storytelling, including... a satirical assessment of the American Dream masquerading as a historical architectural treatise for a fictional, but uncannily familiar, suburban utopia called Freedomland."

Justice As Checks and Balances: Indigenous Claims in the Courts of Colonial Mexico

Edgar Franco Vivanco | Center for Latin American Studies at Stanford University

"This paper addresses... how the Spanish Crown allowed, and even encouraged, the Indigenous population to raise claims against local bureaucrats... One plausible, yet controversial, implication is that Indigenous communities had more tools to resist oppression during the colonial period than following the rise of the nation-state."

PODCASTS

The History of the American Left: The History of Bourgeois Radicalism

James Vaughn | Zero Squared

"To understand socialism in America, and the history of the American left, one must first understand bourgeois radicalism. This episode explores the revisionist account of the founding of the American colonies - arguing that British imperialism wasn't about conquest, but rather about human freedom - and puts it in relation to the story of Native Americans."

South Asian Intellectual History

Andrew Sartori | Ceteris Never Paribus: The History of Economic Thought Podcast

"Commercialisation in 18th century Bengal doesn't look like commercialisation in 18th century England. But the possibility that ... commercialisation in England in the 18th century might become relevant ... in Bengal is something that is opened up by the fact that there are, as it were, connected processes that are generating new problems that require new ways to talk about them."

Class and State in America's Greater Reconstruction

Emma Teitelman | Cambridge American History Seminar Podcast

"This episode looks at the developing relationship between the state and private capital in transforming the United States in the decades following the Civil War... and details how two groups of north-eastern capitalists worked with the federal government to engender new forms of social organization based around free labour capitalism in the 'peripheries'..."