

**POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF LITHUANIAN CONCEPTUAL ART**

VIKTORIJA RIMAITĖ

The aim to problematize the dynamics of political communication in Lithuanian conceptual art can be defined as the main goal of this article. The analysis seeks to identify the types of political implications that are being communicated in Lithuanian conceptual art and situate the term “conceptual art” in Lithuania. The framing of the article is designed to emphasize and outline the local specificity and political identity of artistic works that are made in Lithuania, as well as to reveal that artistic practices that have the potential to create the subtle expressions of political and social attitudes in Lithuania.

**RUSSIAN CONSERVATISM: MAKING NATIONAL IDEOLOGY
AND INFLUENCING RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

VILIUS IVANAUSKAS

The article analyses the impact of present-day Russian internal structural factors searching national ideology and shaping “Russian conservatism” line formation, marked the links between this ideology and the Russian foreign policy. The main focus is designated to Russia’s politics after the Russia-Georgia war in 2008 highlighting the response of Vladimir Putin’s regime to several domestic policy tensions related with: 1) the structure of the Russian regime and the domination of *siloviki* group in the power structures; 2) etno-federalist structure of Russia and growing nationalism; and 3) the competition of several ideologies that increasingly turn to the support of the

Eurasianist ideology line and its transformation into “Russian conservatism”. Conceptually, this analysis is based on the internal and external factors’ impact on the state’s policies (e.g., Walter Carlsnaes concepts), as well as on the theories analysing Russian ethno-federalism and informal networks/relations.

This article argues that the Russian internal structural factors strongly support the Russian Eurosianist direction as the dominant policy doctrine, and this doctrine defines the Russian foreign policy, limits its balancing and influence the dynamics of foreign policy. It shows how, during the recent years, Russia’s assertive foreign policy has become influenced by the neo-imperialist vision of a strong, conservative and alternative Russia, which actively uses “Russian conservatism” as an ideological justification, supports active protection of Russia’s interest in the post-Soviet region (e.g., the war with Ukraine), increasing the use of foreign policy in the post-Soviet region (e.g. war with Ukraine), or raising the question about a multipolar world order. Other competing ideological lines (the pro-Western liberalism and Slavic nationalism) are still included in the balancing if there is demand, however, they remain the non-typical forms of the current Russia’s ideological framework.

URBAN EVENTS AND THE RHETORIC OF A RIOT THREAT. VILNIUS AFTER 2009

SKAIDRA TRILUPAITYTĖ

The article analyses how urban events get interpreted in the Lithuanian media by politicians, experts, media representatives, activists, and public intellectuals. The rhetoric of a riot threat here is associated not so much with the intentions of protest organisers but with external political tensions. Famous politicians, journalists and other public speakers hold some beliefs about events in the city that are shaped by the administrative laws as well as general geopolitical orientation of the country (influenced by the new Russian aggression). A violent event in Vilnius (riots near the Lithuanian Parliament in 2009 January 16) here is chosen as a symbolic point of departure for the discussion about interpretation of subsequent events that

became seen in the local media with rising suspicion, suggesting the possible “foreign meddling”. In the beginning, the article shows new understanding of some public intellectuals that the Lithuanian domestic politics is becoming “authoritarian again” (ostensibly similar to the Soviet state). The greater activity of civil society and Western integration also caused some troubles for the authorities (approximately since 2010), since it became harder to coordinate various new types of public events in Vilnius (such as numerous marches, commemorating gatherings and protests). Later, by singling out some public speculations in the media about the possible riot threat, the article discusses legal and symbolic boundaries of some events. The conclusion is made that in contemporary Lithuanian media, social demands are interpreted in a rather contrasting way. Some politicians, but also famous journalists etc. see those demands and ensuing protests as a threat to a small country’s social and political integrity or even the national security. While other public speakers see the same demands and legitimate public protests as a desirable (although, unfortunately, wavering away) feature of a “normal” democratic society.

**RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT PRINCIPLE CONSTRUCTION
ON INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS:
CASES OF THE UN AND THE USA**

BRIGITA LOKĖ

The goal of the article is to analyse how the responsibility to protect the principle is constructed on the international and national levels. The research is based on the analysis of primary sources of the UN and the USA. According to one group of authors, the concept of responsibility to protect is a new and valuable impulse in the international sphere regarding the question of human security. On the contrary, other group of authors claims that this concept doesn’t bring anything new, doesn’t offer shift points and may eventually be harmful to international community. While the scientific discussion is developing on this question, at the same time, this concept evolves and fixates on the international and national levels.