

ISSN 1392-1681

***When There Was More Democracy in Lithuania?
A Comparison of the Political Regimes of the First
and Second Republics of Lithuania***

Zenonas Norkus

The article provides a diachronic quantitative comparison of the political regimes of the First (interwar, LR I) and Second (contemporary, LR II) Republics of Lithuania, which is supplemented by a synchronic comparison with neighbour countries. For this comparison, the data set and the Index of Democracy by the Finnish political scientist Tatu Vanhanen (known in the literature as the Vanhanen Index, VI) is used; its values are calculated by multiplying those of the indicators of public contestation and of the participation in elections. The Vanhanen data are corrected, extended, and some of his assumptions are criticised. Vanhanen's index is not a valid tool for measuring liberal democracy. However, the application of Vanhanen's index to the time of the 1926 coup helps to highlight in the decorative parliamentarism of the IV *Seimas* in 1936–1940 some non-fictive elements of the genuine electoral regime, which have survived because of the obstacles to the complete entrenchment of authoritarianism, set by the autonomy of the Klaipėda region under defense of international treaties.

***Development of Healthcare in Lithuania and Estonia:
Similar Conditions, Different Results***

Liutauras Gudžinskas

The article deals with the healthcare systems of Lithuania and Estonia by evaluating their historical context, describing their development after regaining independence, presenting data on how the healthcare resources are distributed,

and what are the results of these systems. Although healthcare in these countries is financed at a similar level, the Estonian health system exceeds its Lithuanian (and Latvian) counterparts in many important aspects. It is argued that an essential impact on the differences in the Baltic countries' healthcare has been exerted by decisions regarding the financing and governance of the health system at the early period of the postcommunist transformation.

***The Parliamentary Scrutiny of the European Union Affairs
in Lithuania: The Factor of Divergence of Parties'
Preferences within a Coalition***

Žana Zimina

In the 1970s, the process of the European integration induced discussions about the deficit of democracy in the European Union (EU). The decreased power of national parliaments and the increased autonomy of the executive sphere are named as the aspects this problem. As this problem has been realised, the importance of the parliamentary scrutiny of the EU affairs increased significantly. The main question raised in this article is whether the level of preference divergence within the coalition determines the parliamentary scrutiny intensity of the EU affairs. The Lithuanian case is analysed. In the article, the levels of preference divergence of two political coalitions and the intensity of the parliamentary scrutiny of the EU affairs implemented in the period of their governance (06.07.2006–17.11.2008 and 18.11.2008–30.04.2012) are compared. The preferences of political parties are identified by using an expert survey. The intensity of parliamentary scrutiny is analysed with reference to the information provided in the protocols of the European Affairs Committee's meetings.

***An Attempt to Understand the Resistance of Corruption
by Analysing Different Equilibria in Argentina and Chile***

Algirdas Acus

The study seeks to understand why corruption is so resistant despite a convincing progress in adopting good governance institutions worldwide. It presents one of the very few success stories and aims to evaluate the

possibilities to reduce corruption. The study contributes to the theoretical discussion by suggesting a heuristic tool – the stag hunt game – in which game theory and historical institutionalism are combined. This model is applied to the process of modernization analysis in Argentina and Chile. The critical junctures that shifted these countries towards different roads are highlighted. Argentina has remained in the stalemate of corruption, while Chile has managed to establish good governance.

***Manifestation of Ethnic Nationalism in the Programs
of Parliamentary Parties of the Lithuanian Parliament Term
of 2008–2012***

Lina Leliukaitė

There is a lot written about nationalism in the literature. However, there is practically no information on how nationalism shows itself in the attitudes of major political forces. This has determined the goal of the study – to unveil the expression of ethnic nationalism on the state level through analysis of parliamentary party programs, because parties are the basic policy-creating institutions of any democracy. The analysis is based on the works of classical nationalism theory – those by Anthony D. Smith, Karl W. Deutsch, Benedict Anderson, Rogers Brubaker, Ernest Gellner. The research model is based on the insights of the above authors: five variables of ethnic nationalism are distinguished, and a search of these variables is made in the parliamentary party programs. Party programs were chosen as the main source of analysis because these documents are the background for the prognosis of the future parliament and governmental policies as well as of their impact on the state and its citizens. Research of ethnic nationalism in party programs allows an effective unveiling of the main ideological principles of the institutions towards the topics that are highly relevant to the state and society, such as migration, nation, citizenship, ethnic relations, language, nation state, etc. A comparative analysis of the programs in the context of ethnic nationalism highlights the similarities of and the differences among the parties.