

Summary

The 143rd *NZ* issue opens with several pieces that are concerned, either directly or indirectly, with the war that Russia is currently waging in Ukraine, as well as with a hardening of the political regime that is happening in Russia itself.

The issue begins with a first installment of Vladislav Inozemtsev's new column *IMPERIAL CHRONICLES* (his essay is titled "*The Naturalness of the Impossible*"). The author proposes his own conceptualization of a transformation of the foreign policy – and its ideological reasoning – under Vladimir Putin's regime. In the *POLITICS OF CULTURE* section, the topic of the "special military operation" is further developed by Petr Alexeyev, who analyses the rhetoric of Russian official media and of statements made by the country's leading politicians about the objectives and progress of the combat operations in Ukraine ("*The Big Losing Special Operation*"). The sociological aspect of the same topic is tackled in the latest installment of Alexey Levinson's column ("*After May 9th*").

Tatyana Vorozheikina in her column *THE REVERSE OF THE METHOD* sets forth an intriguing parallel row to the topic of functioning and political destinies of dictatorships and semi-dictatorships. In her article ("*V for Violencia: Colombia and Violence with a Capital V*") she briefly outlines the political history of Colombia – a country which for the last sixty years has continuously been caught in either an authoritarian dictatorship

or a long and devastating civil war. The recent presidential election has demonstrated that the country's existing political system is in crisis; two "non-systemic" politicians advanced into the second round of voting: far-leftist Gustavo Petro, and a far-right populist Rodolfo Hernández.

The core of this *NZ* issue comprises two sets of materials connected with the now-popular philosophy of animism. The forest as an embodiment of the "natural" order – which is complex and follows its own separate logic, including a cultural one – becomes the focus of several philosophers. The first block "*POLITICS OF THE FOREST: FOLLOWING THE PLANTS*" opens with an article by Michael Marder, Professor at the University of the Basque Country (Spain), called "*The Forest and Survival*", which outlines the main topics for further discussion. Alexandra Volodina brings up the questions of how well the humanity is able to "see" the environment and whether we are prepared to "attune" our attention to it ("*Ecologies of Poor Attention*"). Brazilian philosopher Eduardo Viveiros de Castro continues to analyse the topic – albeit in a purely philosophical sense – in his paper "*On Models and Examples: Engineers and Bricoleurs in the Anthropocene*". Denis Shalaginov, the editor of both thematic blocks, in the second one ("*POLITICS OF THE FOREST: FORWARD TO THE PAST*") tries to analyse the "philosophy of the forest" as compared to our understanding of both the city and the desert. Brazilian researcher Hilan Bensusan suggests some poetical-theoretical metaphors to facilitate contempora-



ry reflections on “the forest” (*“An-Arché, Xeinós, uríhi a: The Primordial Other in a Cosmopolitical Forest”*). Evgeny Kuchinov and Ivan Spitsyn close this topic with their piece *“The Pan-Technical Forest”*.

Sandwiched between these two blocks is a final interview by Richard Marshall from his series of conversations with contemporary philosophers (*NZ* launched it in 2016). Marshall talks to the American philosopher Lee McIntyre about the current wave of science denial and – natural – about “post-truth” (*NZ INTERVIEW*).

This *NZ* issue contains a lengthy article by the American historian Jonathan Daly, *“Richard Pipes: Ethnicity, Culture, Russophobia, and Anti-Semitism”*. As the title suggests, the readers are presented with a brief intellectual biography of Richard Pipes, a most prominent American expert on Russian history. The article concerns, first and foremost, those views and texts of Pipes that led to heated discussions and even classic accusations of antisemi-

tic “Russophobia”. The topic of current varieties of anti-Semitism is further developed in the *CULTURE OF POLITICS* by the German publicist, politician and translator Michael Mertes (one of which he calls “secondary anti-Semitism”).

In the *“CULTURAL AND POLITICAL PEDAGOGY OF CINEMA”* Igor Smirnov produces a brief overview of how cinema, right from an earliest stage of its history, has always developed the theme of artificial intelligence – and how it has affected the contemporary Western consciousness (*“Artificial Intelligence Avant la Lettre: How Cinema Taught Machines”*). Vadim Mikhailin and Galina Belyaeva use the example of Richard Viktorov’s film *“Transitional Age”* to reconstruct the history of formation of the official Soviet memory of the War.

The 143rd *NZ* issue concludes with the *RUSSIAN INTELLECTUAL JOURNALS’ REVIEW* by Alexander Pisarev; and the *NEW BOOKS* section.

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