

***Post-communism as an Ideological Phenomenon***

*Vaidotas Valantiejus*

The main task of this article is the conceptualization of post-communism as a reflexive exploration of the features of ideological discourses. The article also seeks to offer the new definition of ideology as the most common form of the political. Post-communism is shown to be a complex process that fits uneasily into pre-given categories. Post-communism is the hybrid condition of decolonization, modernization and post-modernization. The article insists on the importance of discourses of ideological representations of reality in defining post-communism. The article also argues that the articulation of relationship between post-communism and post-colonialism offers a better understanding of the ambiguous condition of post-communism.

***Political Realism in International Relations: Conception and Misconceptions after the Cold War***

*Jaunius Petraitis*

The article seeks to explore the conception of realism in the discipline of International Relations. First, the works of the founding figures of realism are examined to extract the core set of principles intrinsic to the classical tradition. In the light of these timeless principles a research is done about the changing (mis)conceptions of realism in IR after the Cold War. The findings reveal that the latest ‘realist’ theories tend to break away from the genuine realistic approach to international politics. The comparison of typical ‘rea-

listic' explanations of the US foreign policy after the Cold War uncovers significant theoretical and practical implications of the recent biased thinking in the name of 'realism'.

***Invalidity and Unreliability  
of Economic Measures of Happiness***

*Adolfas Mackonis*

The article argues that economic measures of happiness are invalid and unreliable. The invalidity is implied by the subjective theory of value: happiness cannot be measured in the cardinal scales of measurement and it cannot be intersubjectively aggregated. The unreliability also follows from the subjective nature of happiness. The article concludes that the application of happiness economics to inform policy decisions should be seen as immoral.

***The Concept of Environmental Security  
in International Relations: Definition, Features, Implications***

*Martynas Zapolskis*

This article examines the concept of environmental security and assesses its role in international, regional and national security studies. Environmental security explores relationships between different environmental issues, their effects and various security problems. Five main academic schools of environmental security are identified and examined in the article, focusing on their features and findings, methodology and critical assessment: 1. Resource scarcity school; 2. Resource abundance school; 3. Climate change school; 4. Human security school; 5. Natural disasters school.