

*On Second Kiev that was not there:
Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the Retrospective
of the Comparative Historical Sociology of Empires
and Theory of International Relations*

Zenonas Norkus

This is an inquiry on following questions: 1) was the mediaeval Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) an empire and what are the reasons for the affirmative answer; 2) what kind of empire it was, and 3) of what kind was the polity into which it was transformed? The author describes GDL as the secondary patrimonial „vulture empire“ (in the sense of Thomas J.Barfield) that evolved into a federative one-estate estate monarchy, and was marked by some characteristic features of an empire until the very end of its independent existence in 1569.

*Identity of Central Europe as a Problem
of Political Philosophy*

Alvydas Jokubaitis

Common regional identity can never be derived from scientific cultural studies conducted in certain countries. A new cultural and philosophical meaning can never be devised on the basis of political science. It can only be the result of philosophical imagination. Scientists can present facts which bear proof of merely cultural and political affinity. However, so far they have failed to propose any more significant concepts or images for the future of Central Europe. Mere knowledge of empirical facts

cannot be treated as a philosophical discovery. Both politicians and scientists can be aware of and handle an abundance of facts, and yet a philosophical idea is needed to bind all these facts into one coherent whole.

*Representing Lithuanian interest in Brussels:
a journey without interest groups?*

Jurgis Vilčinskis, Deividas Vijeikis

Article examines the ongoing process of interest group institutionalisation and interest – State relationship in Lithuania after the delegation of policy-making competencies to the supranational (EU) level. Europeanisation, which stands for the adoption of values, policy styles and knowledge by the EU-based interest community, is viewed as a major source of organisational change in the system of interest groups. Due to structural and perceptive factors, business, labour and public interest groups respond differently to the new lobbying opportunities present at the EU level. Article acknowledges problems of compatibility between EU and national interest arenas. Three alternatives: national “route”, direct representation and supplementary lobbying in Brussels are discussed and compared. Article looks at ways how cooperation of interest groups and the State could benefit a member state’s European policy-making and strengthen negotiating power. It invites for changes in European affairs coordination system to transform it into a consultative arena.