

*The Problem of Methodological Individualism
in Thomas Hobbes's Social Theory*

Algimantas Valantiejus

The aim of the article is to identify and critically assess the key concepts, ideas and the epistemological principles of Thomas Hobbes, as a theorist of modern state who conceptually grasped the nature of the political. In light of the methodological concerns, the article attempts to provide an understanding of various conceptual connections in Hobbes' work *Leviathan* between the human passions, liberty, social contract, obligation, morality, and power. The paper also touches on the problem of the radical nominalism. Given the emphasis on the individual, Hobbes faces the dilemma between methodological individualism and methodological holism. Some of the corollaries of his political theory, including the organicistic metaphor of "society as mortal God", are inconsistent with the main body of Hobbes' theoretical thought. The article concludes by arguing that the controversial concepts of Hobbes' social theory force us to assess them in light of the different interpretative possibilities.

*Implementation of Parliamentary Control in Lithuania:
Methodological Notes about the Rupturing
"Principal-Agent Chain"*

Alvidas Lukošaitis

Article analyses processes of parliamentary control in Lithuania. The research is based on the "Agent – Principal" theory approach, which demonstrates a simplified perception of parliamentary control in Lithua-

nia. That induces the application of a limited, i.e. information-based, means of parliamentary control in political practice. Parliamentary control in Lithuania is perceived as an act of subordinate coercion by governmental institutions, rather than continuous communication and cooperation. That causes the fragmentation of parliamentary control. Due to semi-presidential system's delegation of authority and accountability, parliamentary control is rather complicated in Lithuania. Efficient parliamentary control is impossible without political parties, which should be prepared to professionally govern or compete. Lithuanian political parties seem unprepared for these tasks. Research suggests that simplified perception of parliamentary control prevailing in Lithuania complicates its implementation in practice, though institutional preconditions for the implementation of efficient parliamentary control are present.

*On Geopolitical Identity: National Elites
and International Intellectual Exchanges*

Skaidra Trilupaitytė

Aim of this article is to analyze how the interpretation of “universal” geopolitical ideas, especially those related to images of US power, depend on national, publishing and rhetorical interests. First, this article uses Pierre Bourdieu's concept of “cultural fields” and his theoretical focus on the international circulation of ideas to discuss these varied interests. Second, while using Lithuanian examples, the specific historical circumstances of the reception of geopolitical ideas in Central and Eastern European countries are considered. Additionally, questions are raised regarding whether the split between the Left and the Right in the local Lithuanian public space and its media traditions directly corresponds to hypothetical Western models. Despite the fact that one could reasonably doubt the straight transmission to Lithuania of the division between two intellectual traditions (at least in the same way those traditions are manifested in Western Europe or the US), intensive public intellectuals' relations with different cultural contexts – translations, academic journeys, international conferences, seminars and other accelerated by globalization factors – help escalate these tendencies.

*Women in the Electoral Campaign: Positions in the Parties
and Representation in the Media*

***Irmina Matonytė, Aurelija Novelskaitė,
Ernesta Butkuvienė***

The paper discusses women's images and women related themes as they were presented in the Lithuanian national mass-media in the EP elections (May–June, 2004). Monitoring of the two largest Lithuanian dailies demonstrated that the EP elections had a second-rate status, which was enhanced by the first-round of the nation-wide Presidential elections, taking place on the very same day (May 14, 2004). Newspapers provided superficial references to women and did not produce any articulated discourse about women's representation in the EP. The result – the Lithuanian delegation to the EP has 5 women among its 13 members – is to be attributed to national political culture, appearance of the new populist party and individual candidates' electoral strategies, but not to women-friendly public discourse and political communication.