

Abstracts

Rasmus Bellmer / Frank Möller

Looking at War and Peace – The Visual Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Responding to the crisis in photojournalism, many photographers during the wars in former Yugoslavia developed alternative photographic approaches to capture the complexity of the wars more adequately than conventional photojournalism seemed capable of doing. In this article, we present a typology of these alternative photographs. We discuss forensic photography, aftermath photography, post-conflict and peace photography as well as participatory photography both in generic terms and in the specific Bosnian context. Following this typology, we introduce one specific photojournalistic project, Gilles Peresses and Fred Ritchin's "Bosnia: Uncertain Paths to Peace". This project integrated several aspects of the new photographs into a coherent and convincing approach. We then discuss it in terms of interactivity and narrative openness. Necessarily limited by the technological standards of the time, this project can be seen as an important precursor to current photojournalistic approaches in search of adequate representations of the ongoing messiness and institutionalized instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Heinz-Jürgen Axt

New Cold War? – Why Does Putin Fear the EU More than NATO?

The following text is the written version of a lecture given by Prof. em. Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Axt on 22 February 2015 at the "Europäische Begegnungsstätte am Kloster Kamp e.V." in Kamp-Lintfort (Germany). Even after Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the thesis developed in the article remains valid, namely that Russia under President Putin sees the establishment and consolidation of democratic systems in former Soviet republics as a threat to its own autocratic system. Reading Axt's remarks from seven years ago raises the question to which extent necessary lessons were not learned, or have been insufficiently learned in Germany, Europe and the West in general. If the Russian president had been betting that the West was too weak to resist successfully (which is why he felt encouraged to go to war against Ukraine and its democratically legitimised order), he may have been fundamentally mistaken. Most of the West is more united than ever. As Axt's analysis offers a plausible interpretation even today and reveals background information, we are reprinting the lecture written seven years ago almost unchanged.

Yannis Maniatis

European Energy Security and Greece's Key Role

The energy transition period towards 2030 will need six times the current amount of critical minerals, a fourfold increase of investment in clean energy, and a big effort to make the market independent from Russian natural gas and China's renewables and critical materials. The necessity of huge investments in green energy requires a new global agreement among the big multilateral financial organizations. The EU will need to learn from the current energy crisis to avoid making the same mistakes in the future. Mainly, the EU needs to understand the huge importance of natural gas as the only transition fuel towards a carbon neutral 2050. Hence, it has to adopt a new energy doctrine, based on three equivalent pillars: green transition + energy safety + avoidance of energy poverty.

Greece has rich natural gas deposits, the value of which may be more than 250 billion euros. At the same time, Greece can become an important European energy hub, thanks to pipelines such as TAP, EastMed, LNG FSRU in Alexandroupolis and others. This infrastructure, together with the natural gas deposits of the Ionian Sea and Southern Crete may constitute the basis for its new energy role in supporting a revised European Energy Doctrine.

Charalampos Karpouchtsis

German Foreign Policy of Reconciliation and Greek Martyr Communities – An Overview for the Period 2014–2019

This contribution examines German reconciliation policy towards Greece in the period 2014–2019. The conceptual approach is based on a political science perspective, including relevant literature from the emerging academic field of reconciliation research. A short overview of the last 70 years is provided, highlighting the shift of gear towards a German foreign policy of reconciliation. Symbolic gestures such as commemoration and wreath-laying ceremonies, but also pragmatic approaches are discussed. The focus is not only on the German policy of reconciliation, but also on Greek martyr towns and villages that are supposed to be the recipients of these reconciliation efforts. This contribution seeks to illustrate the chances and limits of German symbolic gestures regarding a bilateral reconciliation process. The inquiry examines a long-failing and contradictory process. This process depends on the attention and commitment of different actors from both countries and represents a node to the nature of their bilateral relations.

Anne Pirwitz

From Sponsorship to Partnership – Developments and Current Status of Romanian-French Town Twinning

In the late 1980s, numerous Western European communes "adopted" Romanian villages to protect them from Ceaușescu's village systematization program. Around 2,000 French villages took part in this project initiated by the organization Opération Villages Roumains. Some of these sponsorships subsequently developed into town twinnings. Today, Romania and France are linked by around 200 local partnerships. This article first looks at the history of its origins and its importance for the local political and civil integration of Romania into the EU. Then, the Romanian-French town twinning is compared with the Romani-

an-German town twinning. The second part of this article examines the current situation of the partnerships. Representatives of 59 town twinings from Romania and France took part in a survey which is explored in greater detail.