

Spis rzeczy

Od Redakcji	5
От Редакции	7
Editorial	9

WSPÓŁCZESNOŚĆ

HIROAKI KUROMIYA, <i>How to Make Sense of the Donbas in the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict in the 21st Century</i>	11
MARTA STUDENNA-SKRUKWA, „ <i>Żywa Biblioteka Donbasu</i> ” jako opowieść o zaniechaniach Kijowa wobec regionu	25
OLENA SILCHUK, <i>Ukraińska młodzież w Polsce – pragnienie osobistego rozwoju czy przyszłość polskiej gospodarki?</i>	37
STANISŁAWA BUDZISZ-CYSEWSKA, <i>Abchazja w obrazach filmowych Giorgiego Owaszawilego</i>	49

ESEJ

DIMITRI AVALIANI, <i>Russian Propaganda and „Soft Power” in Georgia</i>	59
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ROZMOWY

<i>Pamięć historyczna w Rosji</i> . Wywiad z Janem Raczyńskim, wiceprezesem moskiewskiego Stowarzyszenia „Memorial”	67
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SYLWETKI

JAN PISULIŃSKI, „ <i>Ukraiński Mazarini</i> ”? - <i>Roman Smal-Stocki i Polacy</i>	79
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HISTORIA

WOŁODYMYR KOMAR, <i>Беларусь в восточной политике Польши в 1920-х годах</i>	95
IURII CHAINSKYI, <i>Świat islamu w akcji propagandowej prometeistów: Kongres Muzułmański w Jerozolimie w 1931 r.</i>	105
Zapis dyskusji wokół książki „ <i>II Rzeczpospolita wobec ruchu prometejskiego</i> ” pod redakcją naukową PAWŁA LIBERY, z udziałem JANA JACKA BRUSKIEGO, MARKA KORNATA, ANDRZEJA NOWAKA i autora	117

Z ARCHIWUM

<i>Raport informacyjny CIA dotyczący Włodzimierza Bączkowskiego z 1949 roku z komentarzem BARTOSZA RUTKOWSKIEGO</i>	141
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RECENZJE I OMÓWIENIA

SEVNIJ ALIYEVA, <i>Унікальний архив А. М. Топчибаши</i>	147
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WARSZAWA

Warszawa Wschodnia – Kalendarium „wschodnich” wydarzeń w stolicy	151
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Note from the Editors

Dear Readers,

We have the pleasure of presenting you with the ninth volume of ‘New Prometheus’, which we endeavour to present materials concerning both the Promethean Movement’s past and present situation in Russia, in Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

In the section dedicated to CONTEMPORANEITY, we invite you to read an article by Prof. Hiroaki Kuromiya, concerning the history and specificity of the Ukrainian Donbas region, as well as the social attitudes present there, within the context of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. Readers of ‘New Prometheus’ will recall Prof. Kuromiya from his articles concerning Japanese-Georgian Promethean cooperation, as well as Promethean activity in the Far East. The American scholar has also conducted a large amount of academic research concerning the history of the USSR and Ukraine, including Donbas, which he has written a number of books about, the most recent of which, *Ponyat Donbas*, was published in 2015. The following article, written by Dr. Marta Studenna-Skrucka, continues the theme of Donbas. The author analyses a series of interviews conducted with intellectuals from the region, which were published in Ukraine under the title, “Donbas’ Living Library”. The interviews prove Kyiv’s long neglect of this region. We also present the thoughts of Olena Silchuk, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Warsaw, on the subject of stereotypes concerning young Ukrainians in Poland. The section closes with an article by Stanisława Budzisz-Cysewska, who introduces the work of the contemporary Georgian film director, Giorgi Ovashvili. The article is the result of a paper presented by the author during the second conference entitled, “The Caucasus after 1991”, which took place on 6-7 December 2015, and was organised by the Centre for East European Studies UW.

In the ESSAY section, we invite you to familiarise yourselves with Dimitri Aviliani’s article concerning Russian propaganda and “soft power” in Georgia. The author, a journalist and publicist, analyses in detail Russia’s influence on the media and NGOS in Georgia.

As is does every year, the Centre for East European Studies UW organized a ceremony of presenting Eastern Review Awards for the best authors and scholars. The awards also include the Aleksander Gieysztor Award for exceptional poise and achievements, not just in the field of academia. This year, the award went to the Russian “Memorial” Society and the award was received by its vice-president, Jan Raczynski. In the CONVERSATION section, we present an interview with him by Andrzej Turkowski.

In the volume which you hold in your hands, we also have the pleasure of presenting the PROFILE of Roman Smal-Stocki, a linguist, diplomat, Promethean

activist, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of the émigré government of the Ukrainian People's Republic, as well as Secretary of the Ukrainian Scientific Institute in Warsaw. The author, Prof. Jan Pisuliński, analyses Smal-Stoczek's relations with the Polish government and Polish Promethean activists.

The HISTORY section opens with an article by the Ukrainian historian, Volodymyr Komar, so well-known to readers of 'New Prometheus'. It presents Belarus' place in Polish Eastern policy in the 1920s. The author analyses the conceptions of Polish politicians and the possibilities of realising them. The following article written by our editing colleague, Dr. Iurii Chainskyi, takes up the subject of the involvement of Polish Prometheists in the Islamic world. The author uses the example of the propaganda operation during the Muslim Congress which took place in Jerusalem in 1931, to present the issue. The third part of this section is the transcript of a discussion concerning the book, *II Rzeczpospolita wobec Ruchu Prometejskiego*, (The Second Polish Republic and the Promethean Movement), critically edited by Dr. Paweł Libera. The discussion took place in the building of The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences, with the participation of Prof. Jan Jacek Bruski, Prof. Marek Kornat, Prof. Andrzej Nowak and the author.

In the ARCHIVES section, we have the pleasure of inviting you to familiarise yourselves with a CIA report concerning Włodzimierz Bączkowski from 1949, with commentary by Bartosz Rutkowski.

The present issue of 'New Prometheus' closes with the WARSAW section, where on the platform of "Warsaw East" station, we present a calendar of, in our view, the most important cultural, artistic and academic "Eastern" events that took place in Poland's capital from October 2015 to June 2016.

Happy Reading!

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