

Chi-Wook Kim, *The G20 and a Changing Mode of Global Governance*

Since the outbreak of the U.S. financial meltdown in 2008 and the global economic crisis, the Group of Twenty (G20) has evolved into a “premier forum” for global economic governance. A new world order is clearly forming in which we will see a shift of economic power from West to East. It is in this context that Chi-Wook Kim reviews the historical background of the G20 and its implications for changing the mode of global governance. After analyzing the achievements of four rounds of G20 summits, from Washington, London and Pittsburgh to Toronto, the author concludes that the G20 faces both opportunities and challenges in terms of effectiveness, representativeness and institutionalization. As a host country of the newly regularized G20, Korea needs to play an active role in drawing up a politically feasible agenda on global financial governance. Furthermore, Korea would do well to strengthen its political base of support by building policy networks with developing countries and non-governmental organizations. Finally, Korea’s roles include strengthening the institutional capabilities and effectiveness of the G20 by coordinating conflicts of interest among member countries and ensuring their compliance with commitments.

Stephan Sberro, *Europe Reunified?*

In this article, Stephan Sberro weighs up the political implications of joining the European Union (EU) for ten Central and

Eastern European nations that were ruled by communist dictatorships for more than five decades and that suffered the attendant economic and political strife. This ambitious expansion of the EU was deemed risky at the time, but seven years down the line, we can say it has been a success, particularly from an economic standpoint. From a political viewpoint, however, the results have been more ambiguous. These fledgling democracies are not the only ones in the EU dealing with a resurgence of populism and nationalism, but they are more vulnerable to their onslaught. The driving force behind this new wave of EU membership can be discerned in the drawing up of a common European security policy. As former communist nations, the geopolitical vision of these ten new members is shaped by concerns over Russia. In response to this perceived threat, they have sought to form close ties with the United States in the belief that this is the best solution, even though it will undoubtedly hinder Europe's progression from its current standing as a common political, economical and social entity to the status of world power.

Martha Ortega, Nuclear Arsenals and Russia's Foreign Policy Toward the United States

Ortega begins her essay by taking a brief look at the foreign policy adopted by the Soviet Union and later Russia toward the United States on the issue of nuclear arsenals. The discovery of nuclear fission just before the outbreak of World War II opened up a whole new world of technological possibilities employing nuclear energy, but demand for new, more effective weapons in a world at war shifted the focus onto the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction as its primary application. Once the international community acknowledged the destructive

capabilities of nuclear weapons, their destiny was to become the subject of international debate. The nations that emerged as the dominant powers in the polarized world of the postwar period spearheaded the arms race, which was largely aimed at developing nuclear weapons. It is these historic tensions between the USSR and the United States that help shed light on Russia's current foreign policy toward the United States on the subject of nuclear weapons.

César B. Martínez Álvarez, *National Interests and the Power Balance in Russian-Mexican Relations 1890-2010*

This article analyzes the factors that have shaped relations between Russia and Mexico over the last century or so; relations that have enjoyed a commendable degree of continuity, despite the immense geographical distances between the two. Based on the premise that the shifting of power on the international arena goes a long way to explaining these ties, the author looks at some of these historic moments and how the governments of Russia and Mexico have interpreted them, with a view to understanding what position each country has occupied in the calculations of the other. In the late 19th century, in the context of rivalry between Europe's imperial powers, Russia's naval needs and Mexico's attempts to project a stable image to the outside world led to a rapprochement, which culminated in the establishing of diplomatic relations in 1890. The transformation of the international system in the wake of World War I helped revive relations between the Soviet Union and Mexico, resulting in the official renewal of diplomatic ties in 1924, which were broken off shortly afterwards in 1930. It would take another world conflict to reestablish diplomatic relations in 1943, but the bipolar dynamic prevalent at the time would prevent

these ties from being consolidated until the late Sixties, when a temporary détente fostered closer relations between the two countries. And while the configuration of the new international order is not entirely clear, there are signs of a new rapprochement, which has been more evident on a diplomatic level than in terms of trade, despite the undeniable potential of the latter.