

Editoriale di *Boris Biancheri*

Dossier:
Identità e ruolo: la Russia oggi

**La guerra Russia-Georgia: il ritorno del
nazionalismo russo**

Paolo Calzini

Il conflitto Russia-Georgia, caratterizzato da una straordinaria mobilitazione interna a favore della risoluta azione militare russa, ha evidenziato l'importanza dei valori della nazione. Il ricorso all'ideologia del nazionalismo come forza di legittimazione potrebbe essere pericolosamente remunerativo in questa fase di crisi. I valori di riferimento – ordine, stato, autorità e nazione – seppure si richiamino al pensiero conservatore tradizionale, possono trovare una moderna applicazione, conciliando interessi di gruppi e individui di diversa appartenenza politica.

**Russia at the Fork Again: to Tighten the
Screws or Open the Windows?**

Lilia Shevtsova

The global financial crisis that has hit Russia has shown the fragility of the country's economic recovery. Russia is entering turbulent times. Its ruling elite has to deliberate how to respond to such a challenge – by tightening its control over the economy and public life, or by using the crisis as a catalyst for real reform. So far the Kremlin has decided to use the old matrix to respond to its new challenges.

**The Troubled Relationship between
Russia and Ukraine**

Flemming Splidsboel Hansen

Ukraine's oscillating position between Western Europe and Russia can be explained by the existence of two distinct security complexes. The first complex is centred on the EU, while the second is centred on Russia. There are no gaps between them as they manage to either attract all states in the continent or force them into their settings. Ukraine traditionally belongs to the Russian dominated sphere but recently has shown a strong affinity for the other sphere.

**Russia's Comeback in Central Asia:
Origins, Implications and Limits of a
Rapprochement**

Matteo Fumagalli

Russia's influence in Central Asia has remained quite stable over time. However, the events that took place in 2008 have raised important questions on sustainability. The impact of the financial crisis, the declining appeal of the Russian market for Central Asian migrants, and finally the tacit disapproval of Moscow's recognition of

Abkhazia and South Ossetia in August 2008 will have an impact on future relations between the Central Asian republics and Russia.

**Russia: Economic Performance and
Prospects**

Philip Hanson

The Russian economy has been hard hit by sharply reduced commodity prices, restricted access to external financing and reduced external demand, in addition to low oil prices on which the Russian economy remains heavily dependent. This review of Russian economic performance and prospects begins with a brisk appraisal of recent economic growth, moves on to policies and then reviews the symptoms of crisis and the state's response so far, and finally takes a very tentative look ahead.

Osservatorio internazionale

**Japan's Security and Defence Policy: The
More it Changes, the More it Stays the
Same?**

Axel Berkofsky

Japan's regional and global defence and security policies have undergone tangible and – for a country that refers to itself as “pacifist” – indeed impressive development in recent years. Although some observers suggest that Japan is slowly but surely seeking to expand and upgrade its military equipment, turning it from defensive into potentially offensive, Japan is in reality as far as ever away from equipping itself with offensive defence capabilities and posing a threat to its neighbouring countries.

**La globalizzazione politica alla prova.
Verso una scomposizione regionale del
sistema internazionale?**

Alessandro Colombo

L'attuale crisi potrebbe avere un forte impatto sul sistema internazionale. E non perché spazi politici e spazi economici coincidano in maniera tale che una contrazione dei secondi trascini con sé un'analogia contrazione dei primi. Al contrario, negli ultimi vent'anni il tessuto politicamente, strategicamente e ideologicamente globale che il sistema internazionale aveva mantenuto per tutta la seconda metà del Novecento si era già profondamente incrinato. A tenere ancora raccordati tra loro i diversi sistemi regionali, sono rimasti proprio i due segmenti di connessione messi ora a rischio dalla crisi: l'economia globale e gli Stati Uniti.

Documentazione

a cura di Serena Giusti

**La crisi e la nuova fase collaborativa fra
Russia e Stati Uniti**