

Summary

The 153rd *NZ* issue is devoted to several topics, most of which are related to the problem of (constructed) identity and its representation in a variety of historical conditions, such as, first and foremost, unfreedom, authoritarianism and even totalitarianism.

The issue opens with a chapter from the book *"The Ethics of Identity"*, written by a British-born American philosopher and writer, professor at New York University, Kwame Anthony Appiah. This book, one of Appiah's major works, has made a significant contribution both to the discussion around the problem of identity and to the debate about the so-called "identity politics". The book deals with the philosophical aspect of these issues. The CULTURE OF POLITICS section contains the Russian translation of an excerpt from this book where the author makes an excursus into the history of philosophical discussion on the problem of diversity and universality in relation to human society. Featured most prominently in this text are Thomas Hobbes, John Stuart Mill, and other classical English philosophers. The full Russian translation of *"The Ethics of Identity"* will be released by the *"New Literary Observer"* publishing house in 2024.

Vacillating identity and the construction of one's own ethical, as well as existential attitude is the topic of Dmitry Panchenko's article *"Robert Kennedy's Hellenism"* (CULTURE OF POLITICS). Panchenko examines the extremely interesting case of Robert Kennedy – the American politician, brother of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy, and

a contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968 – whose ethical attitude towards the political events of his time gradually transformed, which manifested in his private life and in his public appearances. This transformation happened under the influence of his reading of the works of the ancient Greek poet and playwright Aeschylus, as translated by the American expert and populariser of ancient Greek history and culture Edith Hamilton. Robert Kennedy was assassinated during the 1968 presidential campaign; one can only wonder how his consciously constructed "Hellenic" stoic idealism would have manifested itself in actual political practice had he survived and won the election.

The newest instalment of Alexei Levinson's regular column SOCIOLOGICAL LYRICS (essay *"A Matter of the Constitution"*) serves as a bridge between the pieces about identity and the thematic block of this *NZ* issue. Levinson writes about the Russian citizens' attitude towards censorship. According to the results of recent polls, one third of Russians rejects censorship of any kind, another third recognizes the need for indirect restrictions on certain utterances in the public sphere, and yet another third recognizes the state's right to impose outright bans on media and culture. It is noteworthy that one's attitude towards censorship is an important part of one's social – primarily generational and gender – self-identification. The majority of censorship supporters are middle-aged, and mostly female. Strict government regulation and bans are predominantly

supported by those who choose television rather than the Internet as their main source of information and entertainment. We are looking at the segment of contemporary Russian society that was shaped in the climate of the late Soviet era and the 1990s.

That very climate became the focus of the thematic selection, entitled "THE LATE SOVIET UNION ON TELEVISION AND THE SILVER SCREEN". It opens with an extract from Christine Evans's book *"Between Truth and Time. A History of Soviet Central Television"*, whose full translation has recently been released by the "New Literary Observer" publishing house within the "NZ Library" series. Evans, who works at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, is an expert in Soviet history. The excerpt from her research published here outlines the history of the "Vremya" news programme on Soviet television – with a particular emphasis on how the formats of Western television channels, primarily BBC, influenced the development of the television programme that was the main source of information for Soviet viewers. Mark Lipovetsky continues the thematic selection with his article *"Neither Here nor There: Film Tricksters of Perestroika and After"*, where he uses examples of films in Russian that were made between the late 1970s and mid-2000s, in order to trace the fate of the trickster, who is, as the author claims, a typical character of Soviet culture. The final text of this selection is Vadim Mikhailin and Galina Belyaeva's article *"Idyll as a Symptom: From «The New Teacher» to «The French Lessons»"*. The authors offer their own interpretation of the "rural" component of the Soviet cultural canon. From the exoticisation and even "orientalisation" of peasants and their way of life to the

idea of the "Russian village" as the last oasis of genuine, wholesome living – such was the journey made by Soviet cinema between the 1930s and the early 1980s.

Alongside the rest of the materials in issue 153, NZ is also publishing an excerpt from the Russian translation of the book by Michael Marder, professor of philosophy at the University of the Basque Country, entitled *"Plant-Thinking: A Philosophy of Vegetal Life"*. The excerpt, published in the POLITICS OF CULTURE section, is devoted to the topic of time in "plant thinking", a topic already touched upon more than once in our journal, that is popular among those who adhere to the philosophical theory known as "animism". The translated extract from Marder's book is preceded by the preface originally written for the English-language edition of *"Plant-Thinking"* by two philosophers, Gianni Vattimo and Santiago Zabala. The full Russian translation of Michael Marder's book will be released in 2024 by the "Ad Marginem" publishing house. The POLITICS OF CULTURE section also contains Mark Belov's article *"The History of the Word «Justice» in Russian over the 15th–18th Centuries: From Doing What Is Right to Feeling What Is Right"*.

Tatiana Vorozheikina in her regular column THE REVERSE OF THE METHOD continues the topic of Argentina, introduced in the previous NZ issue. Here the author reflects on the fate of Peronism, an influential political movement in the country. The issue wraps up with the RUSSIAN INTELLECTUAL JOURNALS REVIEW by Alexander Pisarev and the NEW BOOKS section, where we can single out Boris Sokolov's response to the Decembrist Sergey Muravyov-Apostol's biography written by Oksana Kiyanskaya.



www.eurozine.com

The most important articles on European culture and politics

Eurozine is a netmagazine publishing essays, articles, and interviews on the most pressing issues of our time.

Europe's cultural magazines at your fingertips

Eurozine is the network of Europe's leading cultural journals. It links up and promotes over 100 partner journals, and associated magazines and institutions from all over Europe.

A new transnational public space

By presenting the best articles from the partner magazines in many different languages, Eurozine opens up a new public space for transnational communication and debate.

The best articles from all over Europe at www.eurozine.com **eurozine**

Оформить подписку на журнал можно в следующих агентствах:

«Подписные издания»: подписной индекс П3832 (только по России) <https://podpiska.pochta.ru>

«МК-Периодика»: подписной индекс 45683 (по России и за рубежом) www.periodicals.ru

«Экстра-М»: подписной индекс 42756 (по России и СНГ) www.em-print.ru

«Ивис»: подписной индекс 45683 (по России и за рубежом) www.ivis.ru

«Информ-система»: подписной индекс 45683 (по России и за рубежом) www.informsystema.ru

«Информнаука»: подписной индекс 45683 (по России и за рубежом) www.informnauka.ru

«Прессинформ»: подписной индекс 45683 (по России и СНГ) <http://pinform.spb.ru>

«Урал-Пресс»: подписной индекс: 45683 (по России и за рубежом) www.ural-press.ru

Приобрести журнал вы можете в следующих магазинах:

В Москве:
«Московский Дом Книги» ул. Новый Арбат, 8 +7 495 789-35-91

«Фаланстер» М. Гнездиновский пер., 12/27 +7 495 749-57-21

«Фаланстер» (на Винзаводе) 4-й Сыромятнический пер., 1-6 (территория ЦСИ Винзавод) +7 495 926-30-42

«Циолковский» Пятницкий пер., 8 +7 495 951-19-02

В Санкт-Петербурге:
На складе издательства Лиговский пр., 27/7 +7 812 579-50-04 +7 952 278-70-54

В Воронеже:
«Петровский» ул. 20-летия ВЛКСМ, 54а (ТЦ «Петровский пассаж») +7 473 233-19-28

В Екатеринбурге:
«Пиотровский» ул. Б. Ельцина, 3 («Ельцин-центр») +7 343 312-43-43

В Нижнем Новгороде:
«Дирижабль» ул. Б. Покровская, 46 +7 831 434-03-05

В Перми:
«Пиотровский» ул. Ленина, 54 +7 342 243-03-51