

ABSTRACTS

Multiethnicity and Ethnonationalism in the People's Republic of China

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The topic of this article is the regional autonomy existent in China since the 1940s, a state policy that has contributed to the thwarting of aspirations of self-determinism or independence (ethnonationalism). However, experiences in conflict management and ethnic tensions within China's extensive borders demonstrate that autonomy is often a necessary preamble to the construction of independence. China has ample experience in the administration of multiethnicity due to the national government's policies of regional autonomy and the imposition of a pact of united territories among different nationalities that exist due to a long history of territorial annexations.

Relations between China and Saudi Arabia: The Oil Diplomacy

ALEJANDRA GALINDO

In the last 20 years China and Saudi Arabia have strengthened bilateral relations due to the necessity of increasing economic cooperation. The main purpose of this article is to examine the possibilities and limitations of the relation between these two countries. The analysis draws upon a neorealist vision in order to evaluate the manner in which changes in the system affected the relationship between both actors. It is argued that this relationship, far from representing a threat to the regional balance of power where the US is the main guarantor, has, in fact contributed to its maintenance. For this reason, we will likely see, in the future, more cooperation between China and Saudi Arabia, as well as more Chinese participation in the Middle East in general.

Linguistic Policy in Africa: The Colonial Past to the Global Future

DIEGO BARBOSA DA SILVA

Since the emergence of nation states, language has played an important role in the construction the nations. As Ernest Renan said (1997), were it not for the power of the state to segregate, select and sort, the national community would hardly exist. If the state is the realization of the future of the nation, it was also a condition for the existence of one. The state uses national language as a tool to exercise its power, including symbolic power, when faced with many conflicts and negotiations. Our goal is to analyze language policy in African countries, after the independence process in the 1960s, and especially to discuss the choice of European languages as official in new nations. However, in this analysis we cannot forget the vast ethnic and linguistic diversity of the continent, in a increasingly globalized world, where English, especially due to its economic bias, has emerged as a global language.

Law and Discourse in the Creation of the Japanese Family Model

FERNANDO VILLASEÑOR RODRÍGUEZ

The purpose of this article is to study the construction of the “traditional family” model in Japan, during the Meiji Era. It will deconstruct the *ie* concept, according to the juridical language used in the Japanese Civil Code of 1889 (also known as the Meiji Civil Code), in order to substantiate the term’s secondary and subordinate nature in relation to “traditional family” as a paradigm created by governmental ideologists of the times. Finally, it outlines and emphasizes the importance of both the political and the legal levels of speech in the consolidation process of the Meiji state.