The European Empire. Expansion and geopolitical rivalry on the European Union’s Eastern Periphery

The article aims at a conceptualisation of the nature of the relationships between the European Union and its Eastern Neighbourhood, as well as of the political game, ongoing in the Eastern European region at present with the participation of the EU and Russia. It pursues a structural approach to deliberations on the empire as a form of political dominance. Apart from this, it is assumed that what the European Union is, or is becoming, is adequately reflected by a formula of relationships with peripheries and is indispensable to understanding the essence of the integration processes on the continent. In its empirical layer, the article refers to the rivalry between the EU and Russia as regards attracting the neighbouring countries to their own zones of influence, taking into account, in particular, the events in Ukraine which have been taking place since late November 2013 and their consequences.

Tags: European Union, empire, European Neighbourhood Policy, Eastern Peripheries, Russia, Ukraine