

INTRODUCTION

Russia and China are not only large countries in the area but having their special place as a state in popular history. The long history of Russia and China has always been an inspiration to cultural creators and historians involved in the analysis and interpretation of sometimes difficult facts. The 20th century showed the significant changes that have taken place in the history of these countries, a period of turbulent change, revolution and transformation. In recent decades, there have been changes not only in the political sphere, but also significant changes in the economy, especially in China. Decisive changes were made especially at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, mainly after the Cold War. The two countries border each other in a long border line, which is particularly the case in the past and now the existence of closer relations with each other. Russian-Chinese relations are often compared to chess. It is said that the Russians play chess and the Chinese Xiangqi, that is, Chinese chess. It turns out that the interdependence is large, and not always losing one side means the profit of the other.

This study, which is a research project, aims to explore and approximate contemporary Russian-Chinese relations. The fundamental question is how Russian-Chinese relations are currently shaping up and from a legal point of view (especially signed agreements and declarations), political and diplomatic, economic and technological and financial. The impact of these relations on other countries has also been taken into account in a limited way. There is also a theory that Russian-Chinese relations are much stronger in the 21st century than in the last decade of the 20th century and depend heavily on the United States? The strengthening of these relations was particularly strengthening during the presidency of Vladimir Putin.

Returning to the studies dealing separately with both Russia and China, it should be noted that there are many. So far, many books have been written about Russia and China: H. Kissinger, *On China*, (2012); J.M. Gescher, *Becoming China – the Story behind the State*, (2017); J. Fenby, *History of Modern China. The Fall and Rise of a Great Power*, (2008); M. Meisner, *Mao Zedong; A Political and Intellectual Portrait* (2007); T. Faerovik, *Maos Rike En lidelseshistorie*, (2012); Wu Xiaobo, *Chiny narodziny potęgi 1978–2008*, (2010); G. Kołodko, *Czy Chiny zbawią świat?*,

(2018) i o Rosji: N.V. Riasanovsky, M.D. Steinberg, *A History of Russia*, (2008); R. Barlett, *A History of Russia*, (2006); W. Taubman, *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era*, (2003); A. Jakowlew, *Od Trumana do Reagana, Doktryny i realia wieku nuklearnego*, (2008); I.A. Rogacev, *Russian-Chinese relations at the end of the 20th century and early 21st century*, [Rossijsko-kitajskie otnosenija v konce XX-nacale XXI veka], (2005); A.C. Давыдов, *Пекин, Washington, Moscow: Relationships in the Context of The Transformation of Global Architecture: monograph*, [Вашингтон, Москва: взаимоотношения в контексте трансформации глобальной архитектоники: монография], (2015), but a few of them should be mentioned: L.M. Luthi, *The Sino-Soviet Split: Cold War in the Communist World*, (2008), M. Lubina, *Niedźwiedź w cieniu smoka. Rosja – Chiny 1991–2014*, (2014); M.L. Levin, *The Next Great Clash. China and Russia vs. The United States*, (2008); M. Słowikowski, *Stosunki rosyjsko-chińskie w okresie prezydentury Władimira Putina*, in: *Rosja, Chiny, Japonia w polityce globalnej* (2007); E. Wishnick, *Mending fences. The Evolution of Moscow's China Policy from Brezhnev to Yeltsin*, (2001), M. Kaczmarek, *Rosja na rozdrożu. Polityka zagraniczna Władimira Putina*, (2006). In spite of the abundant literature, there is no such elaboration at the present, taking into account legal and socio-economic changes in Russia and China.

The work involved the analysis of documents, statistics, economic data and current acts. The data obtained after the analysis will be the basis for the team to verify and present a synthetic, finally related to the whole changes in Russias with China. The study consists of eight chapters.

The first chapter, by Mieczysław Sprengel, examines the development of Russia's political and economic relations with China. This chapter shows that the development of the Russia and China national security system has been determined by many factors related to the adaptation of the world model to the conditions prevailing in Asia and the Pacific. The text discusses the problems and the research questions in this article concern: when did the Russian-Chinese relations change and what influenced the possible change of these relationships? How are these relationships shaped today and what can they look like in the future? The aim of this part of the monograph is the answer to the above questions. The thesis for this material is: Russian-Chinese relations depend heavily on the US policy

The second chapter, written by Dmitry Kuznetsov and Sergei Kukharenko regards The Legal framework of Russian-Chinese relations. Contemporary Russian-Chinese relations can be characterized by intensive development, branched organizational structure, and dynamic connections at all levels. Russian-Chinese relations also have a sound legal framework which embraces more than 300 intergovernmental treaties and agreements on almost all spheres of cooperation between the two countries. The authors present the story of Russian – Chinese relations. They list significant treaties and agreements, concluded from 17th till 20th Centuries, especially until 1916. The third period is the time from 1949 to

1991 and the new period covers the time from 1992 to 2019. The authors cite and analyze individual documents and agreements. In particular, the fundamental Treaty of Good Neighborhood, Friendship and Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, which was signed on 16 July, 2001 in Moscow, was carefully analyzed. The treaty laid a solid foundation for the progressive development of bilateral relations. The effect of this chapter is a comprehensive analysis of a series of documents and multiple agreements and an analysis answering the question: do these documents provide a solid basis for mutual cooperation.

The third chapter written by Vladimir Ye. Petrovskiy underlines the political and legal foundation for contemporary Russia China relations. The article will show Russian-Chinese relations are characterized by unprecedented activity and dynamism, they cover all key areas and areas of cooperation. Relations between the Russian Federation and China have entered a more mature stage – the stage of comprehensive equal trusting partnership and strategic interaction. Cooperation between the two countries is characterized by diversity, ramification, a high degree of consistency and structured interstate mechanisms.

The fourth chapter is written by Valentina Rudenko. In 2010, at the suggestion of China, Russian-Chinese relations were characterized by a new formula – a comprehensive strategic partnership, which was the result of the analysis of new trends in bilateral relations: the development of “tandem diplomacy,” enhancing the role of economic cooperation, institutionalization of interregional relations, the establishment of cooperation in the sphere of the defense industry. The author of the chapter deals with the following issues: Scientific and technical development of Russia and China: similarities and differences, Sino-Russian cooperation in the higher education system: geographic growth of interuniversity contacts and a new level of cooperation, New forms of Sino-Russian cooperation in the system of academies of science, Sino-Russian scientific and technical cooperation in the real sector.

The fifth chapter is written by Alicja Mikołajewicz-Woźniak. The theme of this chapter is: Russian-Chinese cooperation in the finTech sphere. In the modern world, the evolution of the financial market is inextricably linked to the information technology progress. The purpose of this study is to determine key reasons and the scope of cooperation between China and Russia in the FinTech area. The presentation of joint actions is preceded by the explanation of FinTech term and the separation of particular services included in this category as well as technological solutions underlying them. It is followed by the indication of factors in favor of undertaking joint Russian-Chinese activities in the development and implementation of financial technology.

The sixth chapter of Grażyna Strnad's pen addresses the issue of security on the Korean peninsula. The chapter title reads: The Six-Party Talks and Korean

Peninsula: Unfinished Diplomacy. The Six-Party Talks, multilateral negotiations between North Korea, South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, were held beginning in late August 2003. The goal of the talks was to persuade P'yŏngyang to abandon its nuclear program in exchange for international economic assistance. Despite North Korea's many declarations of intent to do so, North Korea did not give up its nuclear aspirations.

The seventh chapter, authored by Szymon Piotrowski, is devoted to issues related to economic coordination within the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.. A lot of space has been devoted to the issue of the rapid aging of the community. The entities that may cause potential pressure on the government to increase state expenditure on social programs, public health care and retirement are identified. It was indicated how the labor market should react to the changing situation.

The eight, last chapter, written by Joanna Siekiera, concerns the Russian and Chinese influences in the South Pacific: external control as motivation for the pacific regionalism. This chapter contains a very important issue due to the fact that the regional policy of countries in this area. The aim of this fragment of the study is to analyze and assess the Russian and Chinese Pacific regional policy. Therefore the question presented in the title of this chapter can be answered in the following way: Russian and Chinese Pacific regional policy has led to both strengthening their position as the supportive global actor, strongly opposing the American interests, being mostly against the microstates, but also as the most effective and almost immediate motivation to develop the Pacific regionalism

The authors of this volume believe that the results of the conducted research will contribute to the deepening of knowledge about the relations between Russia and China as special countries in that part of the world. According to the authors, this monograph may be interesting not only for people associated with the academic environment, but also practitioners, businessmen and politicians. At the end, the authors of the texts would like to thank the reviewer Professor Joachim Osiński for valuable advice and insights regarding the content contained in them, the inclusion of which significantly raised the substantive level of the whole of the study.

Mieczysław Sprengel