

# Letter from the Editor

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The winter that we all feared for a possible huge energy scarcity, is over. However, this does not look like at all with the prospects of war in Ukraine. Although there were some predictions that winter conditions could influence its pace, this old military rule proved to be not present in this case. The diplomatic and policy community is left to seek for scenarios that could possibly change the stream of events on the battlefield.

This journal, however, feels the duty to continue with its mission. So, our distinguished authors prepared again a rich set of competitive and comprehensive reading, having in mind a broad spectrum of topics, including an eye on the region of the Western Balkans. Additionally, also this time we offer another view on African affairs, this time on its regional prospects.

*The first* contribution is a posthumous one and discusses the super election year 2022 in Slovenia. The late author, who passed away soon after submitting his paper, with a routine, but skilled manner presents the main characteristics and challenges of the year 2022 in the Slovene politics as well as its main consequences. With its publication we pay due tribute to the late colleague, friend and supporter of this journal. *Respectful.*

*Our second* paper dwells, as annotated above, on regional processes in the East Africa Community region, with an eye on the way they are being currently manifested. The respected author claims that regional integration in Africa has transformed from political to its current economic concept. It has been widely embraced by states and understood as a way towards peace, stability and accelerated economic progress. The discussed Community seeks to meet various benefits of its broader population. Hence, it is supposed to be one of the cornerstones of the African Continental Free Trade Area. *Valuable.*

*The third* discussion contemplates efforts to derecognize Kosovo as a particular foreign policy tool that primarily serves internal political

goals of the promoter. The paper argues that the background of this process is not founded on the question, if Kosovo meets fundamental Montevideo criteria for a state, but on political aspects. However, the Montevideo doctrine even forbids derecognition in international affairs. At the end of the day, it remains to see to what extent this will influence international politics and its practical approaches. If such a practice would continue, it could influence the way recognition functions and compensates it for tactical political calculations. *Detailed.*

*The fourth* article presents an analysis of a novel on diplomacy *The Rainbow beyond the Soul* and the way diplomacy is manifested in this work of fiction. The distinguished author, professor of international law, takes her academic field as a point of departure to uncover these dimensions. She argues the novel rests on three pillar that show what diplomacy is, how it is intertwined with the private life of its protagonist, and how diplomat's intimate life copes with this demanding and responsible profession. But it's not only the vocation, diplomats also have emotions, beliefs and ambitions that sometimes reach out of their profession's frame as it is with the novel's main protagonist, being a reknown writer. *Thoughtful.*

Our first book review focusses on the phenomenon of populism as meta ideology that shows spreading and concerning characteristics of metastases. And the second one contemplates the newly published volume on diplomacy and globalization. The current Guest View innovatively discusses the issue that is becoming all-encompassing, the AI and its reflections that have yet to be seen.

Finally, there is no any other way than to repeat from our previous issue: we still face an unbelievable and outcrying breach of international law that shocked us with its brutality, i.e., the aggressive war on Ukraine. As we more described then predicted already in the April's 2022 issue, our current slogan, which stems from the late 60s, continuous to illustrate Ukraine as the 21<sup>st</sup> century Vietnam. See you in autumn.

Ljubljana, April 2023

M. J.

*War, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing!*