

# Letter from the Editor

This autumn does not look promising. The war in Ukraine and the energy crises do not provide us with nothing even close to a positive mood. However, each of us is anyway obliged to continue with his/her endeavors, since this is the only and the best way to move forward. And going ahead means not to accept the ancient 19<sup>th</sup> century approach and values.

Also this time, our distinguished authors prepared a valuable set of competitive and comprehensive discussions, having in mind the region of the Western Balkans as their starting point. Though, as our publisher, the International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies IFIMES broadens its research outreach to other parts of the world, also this journal is going the same way. We bring a policy presentation of the African security processes to our readers in this issue, with an intention to expand our policy and research outreach as well.

*The first* contribution discusses volunteering as a specific kind of social activity aiming at providing economic and social contribution to the management of social challenges. The ambitious author takes use of comprehensive theoretical frameworks in order to present better understanding of volunteering as a phenomenon. The paper is focused on the case of Croatia and its experiences in the field of volunteering infrastructure. Along with theoretical foundations also the relevant EU documents and legislation are used to provide a handful of recommendations for the region of the Western Balkans. *Consistent.*

*Our second* article is contemplating the ever-growing phenomenon of digital diplomacy, in particular in its relation towards the postmodern diplomatic practice, developed during the period after the end of the Cold War. The respected author argues that the former triumphed over the latter exactly during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. However unique that period was, it confirms the dominant influence of a concrete historical situation on the appearance and mode of diplomatic practice. Special value of this discussion is a valuable foundation for

future similar researches, using advanced technology and its influence on diplomacy. *Referential*.

*The third* paper puts forward an analysis of private security as a part of the private protection concept, which encompasses private security, security consulting, detective work and citizen self-protection as it has been developed in Slovenia. This concept relates to interests of bodies of corporate and private law, where they are not protected, i.e., guaranteed by the state. The authors discuss the strategic, developmental, and constitutive elements of the development of private protection in the case of Slovenia and define the general framework, including proposals in the area not covered by the state and its institutions. *Systematic*.

*The fourth* discussion brings to our readers a new area of expertise: the African Peace and Security Architecture. As the first paper in the foreseen series, it dwells on its five pillars aiming at conflict prevention, management, resolution, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction and development in the continent. One could understand the establishment of this concept in 2002 as strive for the original local ownership structure that would be capable to deal with the continent's security threats. There exist many of them and primarily home-grown approach is needed for tackling them efficiently. *Refreshing*.

Our first book review discusses the case of the Srebrenica genocide from 1995. Never enough stressed and never sufficiently researched. And the second one contemplates the groundbreaking volume that initiated the emergence of diplomatic studies in the mid-nineties. The current Guest View innovatively puts forward and elaborates the fact that foreign policy is a public good.

We still witness the outcrying breach of international law that faced us with a new threat: the aggressive war on Ukraine. As we more described then predicted in the April's 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 next spring.

Ljubljana, October 2022

M. J.

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