

# Letter from the Editor

<https://doi.org/10.60073/euper.2023.10.01>

The 21<sup>st</sup> century seems to be a dangerous place to live. Not only that the war in Ukraine did not end, a new one broke out: the Hamas' brutal assault on Israel early this October followed by the Israeli large scale counter offensive, what all led to a vicious circle of thousands of deaths, immense suffer and unprecedented brutality.

The reality tries to impose on us an impression that war is a normal state of affairs what it by no means is. To repeat endlessly this message is a duty of the policy and analytical community as well as it is for diplomats to try to find a solution and for politicians to listen to them.

However, this journal feels the duty to continue with its mission and reflect on reality of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our respected authors prepared again a full set of competitive and comprehensive reading, all having in mind a broad spectrum of topics, including an eye on the Western Balkans. Also, this time we offer another original view on African affairs.

*The first* paper offers a fresh view on the use of the unmanned drones in the official use of a state, stemming from the Slovene experience. The respected authors present and discuss on the relatively huge area between legal possibilities and technological progress. This span is a kind of a troublesome one, due to the ever-increasing speed of technological advancement. The EU issued some regulation regarding civil aviation, but member states are pretty much left to their initiative, where Slovene experience could be of use. *Original.*

*Our second* contribution dwells on the issue or perhaps better to say dilemma of human rights or Islam rights in the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The role of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 influenced heavily the understanding and interpretation of fundamental human rights and freedoms. It has also directly highlighted the situation of women in the country as one of the most vulnerable population groups. The regime promised to fight social and other injustices and strengthen a common Shiite identity, but practice speaks differently. *Insightful.*

*The third* article focuses on influence warfare in Francophone Africa and its dynamics, while analyzing external powers' strategies and impact. The region is contested by global powers like France, US, China, and Russia, partially stemming from the colonial legacies, which use diverse tactics as spreading information, economic investment and military cooperation. Influence warfare shapes the region's politics, economy, and society, particularly through information manipulation and psychological tactics, challenging Western dominance. *Detailed.*

*The fourth* contemplation presents a new analysis of a novel on diplomacy *The Rainbow beyond the Soul*, focusing from the diplomatic studies' point of view on the reflections of diplomat's professional and personal life. The analysis views upon the key characteristics of the profession of diplomacy and of the ambassador's personality, as an attempt to better understand and present the multilayered importance and challenges of diplomatic life. It combines privileges and challenges of the ambassador's position with his personality traits. *Valuable.*

Our first book review presents a volume with a handful of views from Poland on the Western Balkans, its current situation and the European perspective that should stay high on the stakeholders' agenda. And the second one thoroughly discusses the issue of self-determination and secession through both historical perspective and its contemporary dimensions. The current Guest View offers an essay like condensed look on the Western Balkans, showing all the absurdity of conflicts from a different perspective.

We continue with a repeat – and an upgrade of the message – what should not have happened to be a daily issue: in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century we face an outrageous development in different parts of the world, where war dominates. It's the war for Ukraine, the asymmetric war between Hamas and Izrael, but it is also the devastating conflicts in Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and so on. One should endlessly point out that war is no solution for anything. It has never been and will never be as well. See you in spring.

Ljubljana, October 2023

M. J.

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