

# Letter from the Editor

As the current trends in the international politics show, policy reflections as well as the offer of lessons learned is an ongoing and ever appreciated business. We stick to it and try to be scientifically relevant from one point of view and innovative as far as the choice of topics of our research interest is concerned, from another one. It is, however, a demanding affair, since there is also an ongoing increase of such output.

Our respected authors contribute to the understanding of these and other issues, having in mind the region of the Western Balkans as their starting point. Not an easy time for this part of Europe and a future to be part of the EU, though. Hence, contemplation is of even bigger importance, hopefully also applicable.

*The first article discusses drug addiction treatment and approach in Slovenia, having in mind its possible usefulness for the region. Drug addiction habits and their countering accomplishments are part of the negotiation Chapters 24 (Justice, freedom and security) as well as 28 (Consumer and health protection). This piece of understanding offers first hand holistic line to this highly sensitive and necessary activity. Original.*

*Our second contribution brings to a reader's attention the current state of the affairs in the non-alignment movement that has decisively shaped global relations in times of decolonization. In spite of the unprecedented structural change in a global world, the movement, claims the respected author, hasn't lost its relevance. Today it presents an important part of the Serbia's foreign policy. Thoughtful.*

*The third research dwells on the so called Washington Agreement, signed during the last period of the Trump administration, arguing that it is neither typical bilateral legal instrument nor a binding one for its signatories. The document lacks credibil-*

ity-enhancing devices and it is primarily a letter of intent and manifestation of goodwill by parties, leaving open the question of implementation. *Analytical*.

*The fourth* discussion analyzes ways, modalities and possible necessity for Kosovo to join the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, including the Genocide Convention. Gaining the contracting party status should not be prevented with the fact of not being the UN member. Recent political history of the region does not make this effort any easier, but also not less important. *Useful*.

*The last* examination researches from diplomatic point of view another outstanding science fiction novel, this time of Ursula K. Le Guin *The Left Hand of Darkness*. The story of a lone Earth's emissary on an alien world is rich with diplomatic aspects and approaches, direct as well as those more subtle ones, waiting to be uncovered. The narrative is full of interdisciplinary attitude in which anthropological aspect stands out. *Attractive*.

Our first book review discusses the relation between media and the modern First Lady from Jacqueline Kennedy to Melania Trump, an issue that advanced through time and was extrapolated in the era of social media and populism. The second one focuses on the role of the United Nations in the contemporary international community through the lenses of the democratic peace theory, including the philosophical contemplation of Kant. The current Guest View pays attention on the outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her era that marked global relations.

Throughout the previous three years (since April 2019) our *credo* has been articulated in the bellow *intonation*, pointing out the importance of *historia magistra vitae* principle. During this autumn the second Slovene Presidency of the EU Council is taking place. Diplomacy is tradition, of course. See you in spring.

Ljubljana, October 2021

M. J.

*From the Congress of Ljubljana 1821 to the Presidency of the EU Council 2021*