

# Letter from the Editor

With the closing of the year 2018 this journal comes back to its respected readers and followers. As the majority of you for sure have noticed, there was a break in our appearance. That was the time of a transition during which the journal arrived from the previous publisher to the current one.

Center for European Perspective as the former and IFIMES - The International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies as the latter, agreed that this journal will continue to be published by IFIMES. This agreement that entered into force during summer time enabled the editorial board to continue with the journal's mission. This is the fact that is for us all the most important one.

The current issue - October 2018 - basically follows the so far editorial outlook. We did not change neither the editorial policy nor the journal's features. So we still aim to present, discuss and bring experiences from the European integration process primarily, not only to the region of the Western Balkans but broadly as well as to promote young authors.

This issue brings five articles and two book reviews. Hopefully you would be pleased with the academic offer this issue brings on your desk or screen.

The first article focuses on public diplomacy, the still current trend in diplomatic practice, but also theory. This in particular, since the respected author, a career diplomat and academician, devotes his attention also to social media and fake news. To contemplate this in a manner that relates to the scientific journal, is not that often.

Our second contribution discusses the ever present, though changing relation between diplomacy and espionage. The ardent author points out subtle, but clear frontiers between the two professions and elaborates on those characteristics that bring both activities together. At the end of the day, both are inseparable linked to the nation state.

The third contribution brings innovation in discussing the phenomena of the UN: Kant at the East River. What can, maybe also should, the UN learn from the great author of the great essay on perpetual peace, still current as it was centuries ago when written? With one word, democracy is the nexus that should fulfill the diplomatic agenda not only of the universal international organization.

The fourth one dwells on various intercultural aspects of global competition, where culture could be a criteria for open, proactive and fruitful cooperation. Culture as one of the most determining starting points for an individual as well as for the society has the potential to enhance competition. But as the same time it also brings into it more understanding and interconnectedness.

Also the last piece of examination is innovative: the author looks at the diplomatic aspects and facets in the outstanding, astonishing work of science fiction guru Isaak Asimov. His Foundation Trilogy does not lack diplomatic *esprit* and points out various understandings of diplomacy, both contradictory as well as complementary.

The first book review uncovers a unique handbook for achieving business success, stemming from the real experience of a branded personality, and the second one difficult, demanding, but the only correct of Bosnia and Herzegovina – its further democratization, coming from the desktop of a renowned academician.

Last but not least, the recent Guest View encourages us all to carry on our mission in spite of all that can happen on walking such a long – hopefully not to windy – road towards cooperation, complementarity and a responsible future.

After all, quite interesting, perhaps also a picturesque reading, while we enter into the next, for us already the tenth year. See you then.

Ljubljana, October 2018

M. J.