

Letter from the Editor

Quoting world known historic years means drawing inspiration from the time past and trying to learn lessons from it. Hence we pick up from the last century two such importing years connected to the current one.

Firstly, we commemorate 80 years since the beginning of the WW2, the most devastating conflict in the history of Homo sapiens, and secondly, we take note of the end of the Cold War 30 years ago, a revolution without a revolution. Two different milestones, but one and the same message: the advancement of mankind should rest on avoiding military conflicts and on using peaceful means to solve them. It would take more than one single issue of this journal to dwell on the utility of this mantra. We think that the 70th anniversary of the NATO Alliance fits in this context.

This issue - April 2019 - follows the so far editorial outlook. With our second issue with the new publisher we continue 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.

Hence, also this issue brings five articles and two book reviews. Hopefully our audience would be pleased with the academic offer, be it in printed or in digital version.

The first article focuses on digital diplomacy, a highly current and growing trend in diplomatic practice, but also theory. Being increasingly present in the diplomatic modus operandi some see it as an outstanding part of the new public diplomacy. The promising author dwells inter alia on its origin and definition as well as on most used digital platforms.

Our second contribution discusses the ever phenomena of a brain drain, with a particular view to young and talented persons. It refers to the outflow of the most educated, gifted, talented, creative potential pos-

sessing top competencies. The authors alarmingly claim that brain drain is not determined primarily by material-existential and social reasons.

The third paper brings to our attention the Ribbentrop – Molotov Pact between Germany and the Soviet Union. It is the Pact that led directly to the WWII 80 years ago. The author uncovers the diplomatic dynamics behind the scene and quotes on German diplomatic reporting from Moscow to Berlin. Diplomacy in being.

The fourth one dwells on a highly current topic in postmodern diplomacy: the relation between diplomatic and family life. Is this supposed to be a burden or an advantage? The respected author found herself in both roles, as a diplomat and a spouse, but as a non-career diplomat, elaborates on her experience, draws many open questions and offers some hints.

Also the last piece of examination is innovative: the author looks at the correlation between sportspersons and diplomats, both being individualists. Through this research frame he brings into focus the stereotype that Slovenes are individualists as far as their successes in sport are concerned. An interesting piece of policy endeavor with challenging findings.

The first book review elaborates on the role of NATO in the Western Balkans, pointing out its evolution from a neutral spectator to a proactive peacemaker, and the second one elaborates on the statehood and political development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a complex country with an ultimate goal, the EU membership.

Last but not least, the recent Guest View contemplates seven decades of the NATO's existence and activities, while arguing that contemporary security risks demand swift, efficient and coordinated responses. International structures have to develop new ways of responding.

Finally, a careful reader will notice our bellow intonation: Slovenia is preparing for its second Presidency of the EU Council, having in mind the Congress of Ljubljana that took place two centuries ago. Diplomacy rests on tradition. See you in autumn.

Ljubljana, April 2019

M. J.

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