

Dear Readers,

We would like to introduce the first of two consecutive issues of the journal *Stosunki Międzynarodowe – International Relations* (Nos. 3 and 4, 2020), dedicated to the memory of Professor Janusz Symonides, a scholar and practitioner in the field of international relations who passed away in 2020. Professor Symonides' exceptionally rich and momentous achievements brought him special recognition in the world of scholarly research, teaching and diplomacy, as well as unquestioned status as an authority in his extensive professional activities. He was simultaneously an outstanding scholar, a lawyer of great influence in the development of international law, an academic teacher whose views and works won the respect of many generations of students, and a diplomat and international official. In the course of his distinguished professional career, Janusz Symonides held many prestigious and demanding positions and offices, including, among others, Professor at the Institute of International Relations of the University of Warsaw and the Academy of Social Sciences in Warsaw, Professor and vice-rector for teaching, as well as vice-rector for general affairs at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, long-time Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs, delegate to the Polish Academy of Sciences in Toruń, and a member of the International Relations Committee to the Polish Institute of International Affairs, Polish delegate to the III Conference on the Law of the Sea, Director of the UNESCO Department for Humanity and Peace, member of the Legal Advisory Committee to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, an expert on the OSCE Human Dimension Mechanism, arbitrator and conciliator of the Law of the Sea Convention, an arbitrator in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, an arbitrator in the Arbitration Tribunal, an arbitrator in the Arctic Sunrise Tribunal or ad hoc judge in the European Court of Human Rights.

The themes of the articles collected in both issues refer to the scientific interests and publications of Professor Symonides. The materials included in both issues have been devised by eminent specialists in their fields, who interacted with Professor Symonides on his academic and professional paths.

The first of the two issues (3/2020) opens with a biographical article in which Professor Stanislaw Parzymies presents Professor Symonides' biography, academic career, and public service. He also discusses Professor Symonides' extensive research and publications, referring both to topics related to public international law (including especially: international protection of human rights, the law of the sea, international organizations, the theory of public international law, et al.) as well as Polish foreign policy.

The articles in number 3/2020 pertain to issues close to the Professor's heart, related to the history of international law: (J. Menkes), the problem of state borders (J. Barcz and A.D. Rotfeld) and international organizations (A. Towpik and W. Góralski). In

turn, the material contained in issue 4/2020 relates more closely to human rights issues (T. Jasudowicz, E. Dynia, J. Jaskiernia, M. Balcerzak), as well as to the law of the sea (D. Pyć), which are of particular relevance in Professor Symonides' research.

We encourage you to join us in paying tribute to Professor Janusz Symonides by engaging actively with the articles in these two issues of our periodical.

Editor-in-Chief Dr Aleksandra Jarczewska with the Editorial Team