

The Editorial

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the first issue of our journal, *Stosunki Międzynarodowe - International Relations* (Vol. 57, 2021), to be published on the Taylor & Francis Group's F1000Research platform.

The transformation from a paper-only journal, which had published academic scholarship in *International Relations* since 1982, was challenging but has opened exciting new vistas for the development of the journal. The innovative publishing tool provided by the Taylor & Francis Group's F1000Research platform has allowed *Stosunki Międzynarodowe - International Relations* to become one of the world's first entirely open-access journals in the field. The new publication mode is part of the move towards making research findings ever more accessible, usable and relevant.

As one result of the transformation, starting from Volume 57 in 2021, *Stosunki Międzynarodowe-International Relations* will be published both online and in a paper version, under two different ISSNs. The online version should, however, be regarded as the original one and citations should reference the details of that version.

The articles in this issue are authored by IR scholars from around the world, all of whom are eminent specialists in their fields. The papers are grouped in five distinct categories: Research Articles; Method Articles; Essays; Case Studies and Book Reviews.

The first issue under the new publisher opens with an analysis authored by Slobodan Samardžić and Bojan Kovačević on relations between the European Union and Serbia in the context of the ongoing debate on the future of European integration and enlargement challenges and issues. The second research article by Natalia Zaslavskaya discusses the Russian perspective on environmental cooperation with the EU. The focus then shifts to Asia, with an article by Gaurav Bhattarai relating to the geopolitical challenges associated with the trans-Himalayan railway in the context of the role of Nepal and territorial disputes in the Himalayan region. The method article presented in this issue by Jan Kleňha assesses the Delphi method as a tool of strategic foresight. It discusses the implications of forecasting tournaments for the study of international relations. The essay section of the issue opens with Ryszard Ficek's reflections on fragile states as a category in the international system - its emergence, conceptualization, and application in international political practice. In the following essay, Reza Hasmath and Una Berzina-Cerenkova analyse the complexity of EU-China relations in the cyber technology sphere, with the European Union's gestaltian approach to China as the main point of reference. The next essay, by Dipannita Bagh and Tapas Das deals with the changing dynamics of the political economy in South and Southeast Asia. Based on a case study of Bangladesh and Myanmar, the authors attempt to assess the impact of regional changes on the security of ethno-religious minorities. The final essay by Ewa M. Suwara addresses the implications for the security of the South Caucasus and Georgia of the American and Russian decisions to withdraw from the Treaty of Open Skies. The volume also includes two case studies. Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau tackles the problem of the rise and fall of China's "Peaceful Rise" and its implications for Sino-American geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific. Rashed Uz Zaman and Lailufar Yasmin address the changing shape of the international order, with reference to AUKUS as a case study. The volume concludes with a review by Radosław Sadowski of Przemysław Osiewicz's recent book, "Foreign Policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Between Ideology and Pragmatism".

We hope that readers find the diverse range of contributions collected in this volume to be both informative and thought-provoking. We welcome your feedback and your own future possible contributions to *Stosunki Międzynarodowe - International Relations* in its new home on the Taylor & Francis Group's F1000Research platform.