

Editors' word

We are proud to present the first issue of Volume No. 8. of the Journal of Regional Security. The previous “blue volume” was a transitional one, introducing many editorial, visual and organizational changes. As is usually the case with transitions, apart from creative potential they also generate a number of challenges and uncertainties. The “burgundy volume”, which marks the seventh year since the establishment of the Journal, will hopefully be characterized by consolidation in terms of both quality and dynamic of the publication. This issue of the Journal of Regional Security brings four articles to its readers.

The opening piece, written by Rebecca Cruise and Suzette Grillot, probes into the security community building in the Western Balkans. The authors argue that there is a gap between the elite-level and public-level sense of security community in the region. Consequently, security and peace building activities in the region should focus on the development of the we-feeling among general populations, and not only the state elites.

The second article, written by Alper Kaliber, concerns the regional aspects of Turkey's foreign policy. However, Kaliber claims that the current regionally-oriented foreign policy of the Justice and Development Party represents the second regionalist turn in Turkey's foreign policy. He argues that the first turn actually took place right after the end of the Cold War with the ascent of the ‘region’ as a distinct unit in global security.

The third article in the issue, authored by Christian Bueger, scrutinizes the new forms of informal and diffused alignments in contemporary global and regional security relations. Drawing on the Communities of Practice framework developed by Etienne Wenger, Bueger investigates how best practices, information sharing and training shape new security practices such as counter-piracy cooperation.

The final article in this issue by David Matsaberidze analyzes the potential for conflict scenarios over Abkhazia. In spite of certain conflict-driving factors such as the construction of the Sochi Olympic complex and the adoption of the North Caucasian new policy line in Tbilisi, the eruption of large scale violence is unlikely due to the strong presence of Russian military forces in the region.

This time, our Reviews section includes three book titles. Natalia Piotrowska reviews James Ker-Lindsay's *The Foreign Policy of Counter Secession: Preventing the Recognition of Contested States* and *The European Union as a Global Conflict Manager* by Richard Whitman and Stefan Wolff. You can also read Srdjan Hercigonja's review of *Security Integration in Europe – How Knowledge-Based Networks are transforming the European Union* by Mai'a K. Davis Cross. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading the articles as well as book reviews published in this issue of the *Journal of Regional Security*.

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