

Editors' word

The Journal of Regional Security has a great pleasure to welcome Amitav Acharya, Andrew Grant, Hilde Haug, and Rok Zupančič as the new members of its Editorial Board. In 2014, with their help we aim to continue to develop the Journal by publishing cutting edge research in the field of regional security studies. Next year we will particularly be interested in Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT). Over the course of the past decade there has been a growing interest in regional security studies particularly thanks to the work done by Barry Buzan and Ole Wæver. Their influential work *Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security* published in 2003 represents the most authoritative account of the RSCT to date. Over the years, their book informed a great number of theoretical and empirical discussions. Ten years on, it is time to take stock of the scope and perspectives of the debate generated by this book. We are looking forward to receiving your articles, essays and reviews dealing with this or similar topics.

This issue opens with the article by Peter Gill, which deals with democratization of intelligence services. The article challenges the state-centric model of intelligence and considers the role of para-state actors. The author calls this new model 'securitism' and argues it can be used for the analysis of contemporary intelligence governance. For Gill, "Securitism" is suggested as a useful way of conceptualising this intermediate political setting for security and intelligence agencies with special powers targeting national security threats such as subversion and political violence" and is developed from "the recent literature on networks and an older literature on corporatism." He then uses cases from Latin America, the Middle East, and the Western Balkans to show various sorts of relations between state and non-state security sectors.

The second article, written by Nikola Lakić, concerns the history education and security community building in the Western Balkans from a Critical Security Studies perspective. The author argues that "history education" in the region "intensifies the thinking that hostility and conflicts are natural and immutable, and makes understanding of war as something inevitable and justified". By drawing on Pinar Bilgin's claim that certain ideas can facilitate the building of a security community, and applying the *immanent critique* on the study of Balkan Conferences from the 1930s, Lakić posits that historical facts were often misused by the elites of the region. The author suggests "community-minded emancipatory education" as a factor for the promotion of sustainable peace.

The third article, co-authored by Cornelius Friesendorf and Thomas Muller, argues that the US invasion of Afghanistan constituted great danger for civilians from its beginning in 2001, and distinguishes between three phases of the invasion. Considering the professional experience and interviews conducted in Afghanistan over the years, the authors conclude that the neglect for civilian protection is morally problematic and can undermine the goals of the West to stabilize the country.

The final article in this issue written by Jelena Cupać and Maja Ružić takes the practice approach to International Relations to uncover the nature of EU's international peace mediation practices. The EU's practice of peace mediation is examined from the perspective of general peace mediation norms, as well as those ideational factors which are specific to the Union. The cases examined by Cupać and Ružić are the EU's peace efforts in Indonesia, EU's engagement in the Russia-Georgia war and the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

The reviews section has undergone through some changes in this issue. We decided to introduce multi-book review articles, which build the reviews section together with single-book reviews. Marko Kovačević reviews Charles Kupchan's *No One's World* and Kishore Mahbubani's *Global Convergence* and examines how those two books about international order in the 21st century correspond to the literature on regional security.

We do hope you find articles and reviews in this issue enjoyable and stimulating for your thinking about regional security. Should you have a manuscript on related issues, our editorial team will gladly entertain your proposals.

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