

Editors' Word

The European migration crisis, its causes and consequences have all been a focus of academic and policy research for the last three years. The problem of forceful displacement has been especially important for the countries which are along the so called 'migrant route' which also have their own recent history of conflict, internal and regional displacement where the effects are still very present, especially in countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia. Accordingly, in this issue of the JRS we look at several important facets of the crisis that has brought not only the humanitarian aspect into focus but has also revealed the problem of the international legitimacy of the European Union when it comes to the respect of refugees and migrants' basic human rights; the rise of xenophobia in Europe, especially in South-East Europe; and the securitization of the issue of migration in the 'transit countries' (the Balkans). Having in mind aforementioned, the text by Leonhard den Hertog offers an analysis of the main EU migration projects which have been implemented almost exclusively in partnership with international organizations such as the IOM, the UNHCR, and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, with a special emphasis on the transparency and accountability of these projects. Hallee Caron's analysis reveals unequal North-South relations when it comes to irregular migration and the legal instruments that are employed by the developed countries in preventing these migration flows. Using the example of the Readmission Agreement between Spain and Morocco, the author considers the consequences of EU readmission agreements with regards to international cooperation on refugee protection. Finally, Senada Šelo Šabić's paper analyses the migrant crisis from the perspective of the four countries on the Western Balkan route (Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia), providing local perspective of this regional (and global) phenomenon, and identifying the special features of the securitization of migration in these four cases.

Starting from this issue of the JRS, we introduce a special book review section entitled 'OSCE Alumni Book Section' for the alumni of the OSCE Mission to Serbia (master and/or doctorate scholarships recipients) who have been attending security and peace master studies or pursuing their doctorate in international studies, European studies and critical security studies at the University of Belgrade. In this issue we have reviews of the *Handbook on Migration and Security* edited by Philippe Bourbeau as well as Oliver Richmond's latest contribution on peace formation in deeply divided societies *Peace Formations and Political Order in Conflict Affected Societies*. Additionally there is Pashakhanlou's analysis on fear and realism in international relations: *Realism and Fear in International Relations Morgenthau, Waltz and Mearsheimer Reconsidered*. We also use this opportunity to invite other OSCE alumni to send their proposal for the consideration by the Editorial Board.

Finally, the Editorial Board of the Journal of Regional Security is pleased to announce that the JRS has become the official journal of the Serbian Political Sciences Association (SPSA). We hope that this step, alongside the long time support provided by the Belgrade Center for Security Policy, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Political Sciences and the OSCE Mission to Serbia will further increase the quality of the published research and provide better regional visibility of the journal and fostering further academic debate on the issues of security, peace and conflict in Serbia and the Balkans. We are thankful to all four partner institutions for supporting the work we do at the JRS.

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