

Editors' word

In this issue of the Journal of Regional Security, we zoom in on authoritarian and populist tendencies in the Western Balkans and broader Europe. The opening article penned by Tena Prelec studies the nexus between Corrosive Capital, Authoritarian Tendencies and State Capture in the Western Balkans. In the article, Prelec problematizes the term 'malign influence' in reference to the influence of non-Western actors in the Western Balkans. As she argues, "by referring only to non-Western actors, those uncritically ascribing malign influence only to certain countries and not others ignore the fact that Western actors participate in the adverse influence too". Wouter Lammers and Michal Onderco wrote the next article offering a state-of-the-art overview of the literature on populism and foreign policy. They look at the themes, methods, parties and countries in the research focus and provide some ideas on how to move forward. The third piece in this issue comes from Aliaksei Kazharski and Silvia Macalova who investigate the impact of Hungary's 'illiberal democracy' and Russia's 'sovereign democracy' on regional security. They conclude: "in Russia's case these risks are most plainly manifest as military interventions in neighbouring countries, while in Hungary they take the form of opportunistic self-interest, with a disregard for rule of law and a potential for further subversions of the regional order". The final article in this issue is written by Neven Anđelić who argues that the hybrid regimes of the Western Balkans are not the result of local or regional but rather global dynamics in which the domination of liberal democracy is challenged by a plurality of other models. This issue ends with a book review of Khalil, Osamah's 2016 book entitled *America's Dream Palace: Middle East Expertise and the Rise of the National Security State* written by Andrej Cvetić. Finally, we would like to end this Editors' word with a little information about our Journal itself. We welcome onto our Editorial Board Sead Turčalo, Elena B. Stavrevska and Dejan Jović as well as Andrej Cvetić as our new book review editor and Aneta Šamanc as our new editorial assistant. Our Journal has recently obtained its first Cite Score from Scopus (0.5) and has been ranked as 350/529 in the field of Political Science and International Relations (Q3). This makes us the best-ranked security studies journal in the Western Balkans. We plan to continue improving the quality of our submissions and to maintain our Gold Open Access regime which makes us, if not unique then, certainly ahead of the curve in the global trend in this direction.

Filip Ejodus and Nemanja Džuverović
Co-Editors in Chief