

## EDITORS' NOTE

In November 2015, the publisher of “Ante Portas – Security Studies”, at the time College of Business and Entrepreneurship in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, was a host of the international scientific conference “The Ukrainian Crisis and its Significance for the International Security”. The conference was held eighteen months after the outbreak of fighting in Donbas and twenty months after the troubles in Crimea. The conference articles were published in two “Ante Portas – Security Studies” volumes – 2(5)/2015 and 1(6)/2016. I remember the Editor’s Note I wrote in the first one, especially one paragraph: The successive phases of the Ukrainian crisis confirm the collapse of the international security system that has been in place for more than two decades on the Russia-NATO and, more broadly, the Russia-West axis. The Kremlin's expansive policy and the violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity also impact the national security systems of individual NATO states, especially the Baltic states and Poland. The international balance of power in Central and Eastern Europe, formed after the collapse of the USSR, has, throughout the past few years ceased to be valid. Eight years later, these words are still relevant.

But the next stage of the Russo-Ukrainian which broke on the 24th of February 2022, has also another dimension. A few days after Russian troops invaded Ukraine and threatened Kyiv, one of the 2015 conference participants (she was a student at one of the Ukrainian universities at the time) wrote me to ask if Poland is ready to provide a refuge for her and her baby – she was deadly frightened. At that moment we all realised, that this is a very real war – not the one we used to write or speak about, not the war somewhere and someone else’s, but a war in a neighbour state, a close one, it was our war too. It is very hard to be objective in such a situation, stand aside and comment on reality as we used to do.

The articles, I am pleased to present, bring the topic of the Russo-Ukrainian War from different perspectives – neighbours of Ukraine and those, who look from a greater distance. The issue opens with three articles by Prof. Svetlana Cebotari and her colleagues, concerning the Moldovian and Georgian views on the war and its influence on security in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Region. Other neighbours’ representatives, Hungarians, Prof. Maria Bordas and Dr János Tomolya discussed the perversity of war and mistakes made by Russian troops and command, while retired officer, Col. Crăişor C. Ioniță showed the Romanian perspective on the security changes in the region. A very interesting and complex impact of the war on the Scandinavian countries was presented by Dr Carsten Sander Christensen from Denmark. The Russo-Ukrainian War is a good example to

describe the Military Response Options in Hybrid Warfare, which were described by Slovakian military researchers Ivan Majchút and Michal Vajda. Dr Khatuna Chapichadze from Georgia is the author of an extended and very interesting commentary on the Georgian National Legion, its role in the Ukrainian front, and its significance in Georgia. The issue is supplemented by an article by Prof. Wiktor Adamus and Karolina Kowalska, not related to the subject of the war, but devoted to ecological security and biochar technology.

I hope that the articles of researchers from Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Poland will be an interesting look at the sensitive problems of security in the modern world – security considered on various levels, but referring to the most important threats in the modern world.

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