

Editorial Note

The Editorial Board of the Romanian Journal of Society and Politics is pleased to announce the launch of Volume 12, Number 1 of the journal. The present issue consists of five regular articles and one book review, ranging across various fields of study, from political theory to constitutional politics, anthropology and international relations.

The first article of the issue, authored by Man-kong Li (Central European University) and titled *Why Egalitarian Distributive Justice Needs Equal Suffrage*, explores the relation between egalitarian theories of distributive justice and voting equality. The main argument, which is that justice requires electoral equality, proceeds in two stages. First, the author challenges Ronald Dworkin and David Estlund's views, which purport to show that equal voting is not entailed by the equal moral standing of citizens, as the latter is only related to considerations about justice and the value of democracy. Second, the author aims to show that Steven Wall's argument in favour of a plural voting system, which actually claims that the idea of equal moral standing is, at least sometimes, undermined by electoral equality, provides a wrong solution to a legitimate concern, one that should be addressed while preserving voting equality.

The second article, *From Unionism to Secessionism: A Comprehensive Analysis of Contemporary Catalan Politics*, written by Hakan Kolçak (University of Essex), seeks to assess current developments regarding the high-level politics of Catalonian independence demands. The author explains the rise of secessionism in Catalonia as partly a product of several constitutional rulings against an enhancement of autonomy for the Autonomous Community of Catalonia and issues several normative prescriptions concerning the most effective way of pursuing an independence referendum in the near future.

The third article, titled *The Interplay between Ethnic and Religious Frontiers: The Case of Repented Roma Migrants Living in a Belgian City*, authored by Ștefan Lipan (SNSPA), offers an ethnographic exploration of a particular immigrant community in Belgium, namely Pentecostal Romanian Roma. The author focuses on several aspects of the community, such as the interplay between religious and ethnic identities, the reinterpretation of traditions within the newly acquired religious framework and the tension between the strict religious norms to which Pentecostals are expected to adhere and the „old” social norms specific to the community.

In the fourth article, *Security in the Black Sea Region Before and After 2014*, Aslıhan Anlar (Kocaeli University) analyses a number of recently salient interactions between state actors in the Black Sea Region from the perspective of their security implications. The author uses Lemke's multiple hierarchy model to examine the security situation in the region, taking particular issue with the relation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine following Euromaidan, the relation between the Russian Federation and Turkey following their support for opposing sides in the Syrian Civil War and the relation between the Russian Federation and Romania following the establishment of the NATO Missile Defence System at Deveselu.

The final regular article of the issue, *A Human Rights Perspective on Russia's Foreign Policy*, submitted by Raluca Răducea (SNSPA), aims to examine the role of

human rights in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. The author is specifically concerned with two essential directions. The first is Russia's approach to human rights issues at an international level, which is primarily analyzed through the positions that the country has taken in the UN Security Council and the number and nature of the treaties concerning human rights it has ratified. The second is Russia's approach to human rights issues at a regional and bilateral level, which is primarily analyzed through the interactions taking place between Russia and the countries belonging to the former Soviet space, during the Cold War.

Aside from the above mentioned articles, the issue also contains one book review, authored by Andrada Nimu (SNSPA), for the book *The Growth of Non-Governmental Development Organizations in Poland and their Cooperation with Polish Aid*, by Galia Chimiak. The book „aims to capture the process of Polish non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs) from recipients of aid to providers of aid”, seeking to respond to a central research question, which is „what are the factors which determined the emergence of the non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs) in Poland and their impact on the appropriation of development norms and practices by the Polish aid system?”.

The Editorial Team