
Editor's Note

It is a sincere pleasure to introduce the first English-language issue of our journal, prepared by the newly-appointed editorial team that also released the Croatian edition earlier this summer. This transition marks a new phase in the journal's development – one defined by renewed energy and a clear ambition to connect local scholarship with the international academic community. By publishing in both Croatian and English, we aim to strengthen the dialogue between regional insights and global debates, and to open our pages to a wider exchange of ideas, voices, and perspectives. However, the dynamic of Croatian and English text submissions is somewhat uneven. We are pleased to see a steady growth of interest from both local and international authors. The increasing number of contributions in English shows that our journal is recognized as a space where regional perspectives can engage with global discussions. In order to be more visible, and to enhance collaboration, there are more and more Croatian authors choosing to submit their work in English as well. At the same time, maintaining a presence of texts in Croatian remains equally important to us – it keeps our roots visible while allowing our conversations to echo in the regional dimension as well. Therefore, we are discussing the possibility of editing mixed volumes, starting in 2026.

Looking ahead, we are already preparing two special issues that will further deepen and expand our thematic scope. The one planned for 2025 is related to the super-electoral year in Croatia and its consequences. The special issue planned for 2026 navigates the interplay between disinformation, narratives, propaganda, and conspiracy theories. There is another call announced for the end of 2026/early 2027 on borders and border realities in the contemporary world. We also warmly invite colleagues and research groups to propose ideas for future special issues – especially those that foster dialogue between regional and global perspectives, or that bring innovative methodological and theoretical approaches to the fore.

As a team, we share the belief that academic publishing should remain both intellectually rigorous and intellectually generous – open to curiosity, dialogue, and critical reflection. Our goal is to create a space where established scholars and emerging voices can meet on equal terms, contributing to debates that transcend disciplinary and linguistic boundaries. In shaping this and future issues, we are guided by the notion that ideas find their true values when they are shared – across languages, institutions, and diverse scholarly communities. This issue shows our dedication to this goal and brings together a selection of articles that reflect both the diversity of contemporary research and the commitment of our contributors to address questions of lasting relevance.

Kristijan Kotarski (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb, Croatia) and Jan Fichtner (Witten/Herdecke University, Department of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Witten, Germany) delve into the historical roots and contemporary challenges confronting the structural power of the Anglosphere, devoting particular attention to the transformations brought about by the second Trump Administration. Their contribution situates these dynamics within broader debates on the resilience and adaptability of liberal internationalism, exploring how shifts in US foreign-policy rhetoric, alliance management, and economic nationalism have reconfigured the strategic posture of Anglosphere states. Through this lens, Kotarski and Fichtner offer an insightful examination of the internal contradictions and external pressures reshaping transatlantic relations and, more broadly, the global order.

Leith Mzahim Khudhyer (University of Mosul, College of Political Science, Mosul, Iraq) turns to the domain of political aesthetics, investigating how totalitarian regimes manipulate aesthetic taste as a subtle yet powerful mechanism for consolidating ideological control and enforcing political compliance. His analysis traces the cultural and psychological underpinnings of aesthetic regulation, showing how regimes cultivate visual and artistic homogeneity to suppress dissent and manufacture consent. At the same time, Khudhyer sheds light on the creative and intellectual responses that resist such domination – from avant-garde artistic movements and subcultural formations to individual acts of defiance and alternative aesthetic frameworks – illustrating how aesthetic expression becomes a form of political struggle and emancipation.

Magdalena Góra (Jagiellonian University, Institute of European Studies, Krakow, Poland), Viliam Ostatník (Comenius University, Department of Political Science, Bratislava, Slovakia), Max Steuer (Comenius University, Department of Political Science, Bratislava, Slovakia – O.P. Jindal Global University, Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, India), and Natália Timková-Rungis (Comenius University, Department of Political Science, Bratislava, Slovakia) present a detailed examination of how sovereignty and democracy are constructed and contested within the

discourses of Eurosceptic actors across the Visegrad Four (V4) countries – Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. Their analysis focuses on parliamentary debates held between 2015 and 2019, a period marked by heightened tensions between national and supranational visions of Europe’s political future.

Srđan M. Jovanović (Nankai University, Faculty of History, Tianjin, China) offers a compelling analysis of how Realist theory in International Relations can illuminate the guiding principles and strategic choices shaping a country’s foreign policy. His discussion centers on Serbia’s President Aleksandar Vučić’s 2023 address at the United Nations General Assembly, unpacking the speech as a case study in balancing between great powers while asserting national sovereignty in a complex geopolitical environment.

Katarzyna Czornik (University of Silesia, Faculty of Social Science, Institute of Political Science, Katowice, Poland) follows in a similar tone by examining emerging dimensions of soft power politics through the lens of Saudi Arabia’s evolving strategy. Her contribution highlights how the Kingdom blends traditional influence with modern instruments of diplomacy, image-building, and cultural outreach to reposition itself both internally and externally.

Finally, Marcin Kosman (VIZJA University, Warsaw, Poland) employs multimodal analysis to dissect the delegitimization strategies used by Civic Platform – Poland’s largest liberal political party – in representing its opponents during the 2023 parliamentary campaign. His research demonstrates how visual, linguistic, and rhetorical techniques combine to shape public perception, revealing the deep entanglement between political communication and power in contemporary Polish politics.

This issue also includes three Book Reviews, a section we are eager to expand and strengthen in the forthcoming editions. Engaging with new and thought-provoking literature is essential to sustaining an active and critical academic community. Book reviews provide a valuable space not only to assess the scholarly contribution of recent publications but also to situate them within broader disciplinary and thematic debates. We warmly invite all readers who have come across an interesting or recently published book to share their reflections and insights with us. The editorial team is happy to assist with obtaining review copies and guiding the review process. We particularly encourage doctoral students to take part – writing a review is an excellent opportunity to engage with current scholarship, introduce yourself, and contribute to an ongoing conversation that increases visibility of both authors and their work.

Marta Zorko, Full Professor, Editor-in-Chief
Zagreb, 1 October 2025