

## **In this Issue**

In the conditions of large-scale confrontations among nations, the tasks of complementarity of national, regional and global security throughout the world, as well as ensuring the quality of human life are becoming more complicated, have become significantly more urgent in connection with new challenges, dangers and threats that are becoming increasingly chaotic. Along with traditional dangers, threats and wars, political instability and environmental cataclysms, new dangers and threats have emerged in the form of interstate conflicts and undeclared wars, the spread of international terrorism and crime, a sharp deterioration in the environment, large-scale man-made accidents and disasters, climate change on our planet, depletion of natural resources, changes in the direction of demographic tasks, etc.

Ensuring a comprehensive multi-stage security system in connection with the emergence of new dangers and threats to its vital interests inherently presupposes a search for new approaches to the policy of ensuring global and national civilizational security. Globalization and Europeanization have strengthened the interconnection and interdependence of different regions, and thus scientific and technological progress has given rise to new global threats to the vital interests of nations, peoples, interstate organizations, CSOs, military alliances, etc.

The civilizational community and the UN have not yet found answers to these threats, since the task of ensuring complex multi-stage security in the conditions of modern global resilience urgently requires scientific understanding, political analysis of the tasks associated with ensuring global security in the broad sense and human security as the most important component of international, regional and national security. These approaches should focus, apparently, not on preventing local and world wars, the probability of which, of course, is not excluded, but on eliminating a set of smaller-scale military conflicts that cause significant damage to human sustainable development, and broad political, social and economic processes that directly or indirectly affect the resilience and vital interests of nations and countries.

Modern approaches to ensuring comprehensive security are less focused on military and political processes, but at the same time they focus on tasks related to the globalization of politics and economics, energy supplies, regional political instability, crime, terrorism, corruption, illegal drug trafficking, the spread of epidemics and diseases, etc.

In 'Intersections of Middle East crises and African Stability: assessing the impact of regional conflicts on peace and security in Sub-Saharan Africa', Abraham Ename Minko analyzes key internal and external political and social factors that affect many states in the Middle East and Africa. The article takes into account the fact that public authorities and societies in these countries are still facing the consequences of events that began in early 2011. It is quite obvious that the study of social and political crises in the Middle East and North Africa is not limited to these problems. An analysis of existing publications leads to the conclusion that there are many points of view on various aspects of the phenomenon of social and political crises in the Middle East and North Africa, and no unity is observed. Political transformations and a number of armed conflicts have created new risks and an increase in destructive factors in the

countries of the Middle East and Africa. The escalation of violence in certain areas of the Middle East and North Africa has led to the formation of new stable migration flows from the countries of the region, which has had the most serious impact on the EU Member States. At the same time, the course of the conflicts, according to the author, has led to a steady increase in the general level of extremist sentiments and has created a constant threat of the spread of radical ideas both in North Africa and the countries of the Middle East, and in Europe. According to the author, the need for a careful study of the causes, the immediate course of the processes that have occurred and the resulting consequences of the destabilizing events in North Africa and the Middle East is becoming obvious, in relation to both the countries being studied and the social and political situation at the regional and global levels. The article presents conclusions concerning theoretical and practical dimensions related to security challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as problems of analyzing the international situation related to this region of Africa as a whole. It should be noted that these conclusions include general theoretical works on policy, practice and possibilities for overcoming the crisis, and also highlight the challenges that hinder the stabilization of the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In his article ‘A small state with growing influence: balancing Azerbaijan in global energy policy’, Suren Tadevosyan analyzes the growing competition between small states for markets, foreign investment, innovation, and new technologies, which is why the problem of small states’ competitiveness in the global economy has acquired particular importance. The article examines how Azerbaijan implements a policy of military aggression and ethnic cleansing against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh with the help of global energy policy. As an example, the author examines the 44-Day War and the militaristic mechanisms of ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as the post-war situation in the South Caucasus. In many studies of global competitiveness, priority is given to large states, since they have a predominant impact on the development and functioning of the world economy. However, most of the states in the world have small areas and small populations, so they are the ones that experience the impact of globalization to the greatest extent. In this regard, the small states of the South Caucasus are especially interesting for study, which, despite fierce competition from large states, are trying to achieve a resilient level of economic development and well-being. The energy strategy of Azerbaijan aimed to attract foreign investment and modern technologies to the oil and gas industry. The principles of rational use of natural resources for the benefit of Azerbaijan and the use of oil revenues for the development of other sectors of the economy were the basis of the oil and gas policy of Azerbaijan. The author analyzes the features of Azerbaijan’s growing influence in the regional and international arena, its transformation from a regional leader into a global player. In just two decades of independence, Azerbaijan was able to turn its energy resources into a formula for its own success in rapprochement with global players.

In ‘Reimagining counterstruggle as a comprehensive theoretical framework for policy design and implementation: dimensions and factors of struggle and resistance’, Sergei Khatunov analyzes the political factors of counterstruggle, which are characterized, first of all, by the targeted use of various strategies to achieve political,

economic, military and other goals, which is inherent in public authorities, local government and society. The article notes that today's increased interest in the problem of counterstruggle is explained by a sharp increase in the scale of resistance among nations and countries due to the escalation of conflicts and the formation of a geopolitical information space. In modern conditions, the continuously developing information and communication technologies steadily increase the volume and speed of political counterstruggle. In this sense, the interaction of space, time and force within the framework of counterstruggle gives rise to trifunctionality. The possibilities of counterstruggle in the shortest possible time are improving, and the dependence of the effectiveness of political power on the ability to carry out confrontation in the foreign and domestic political spheres is becoming increasingly obvious. It should be noted that the experience of various states in using resources during wars and armed conflicts of the last decade allows us to say that the targeted use of various means is becoming one of the decisive factors, not only largely determining victory or defeat, but also capable of preventing open armed confrontation.

In the article 'Gridlocked streets or simply disinterested? Urban youth and unconventional political participation in Zimbabwe's Second Republic', Octavious Masunda analyzes the key prerequisites for the development of the Second Republic of Zimbabwe as a participant in global and regional integration processes, which faces the task of defining strategic foreign policy priorities. The article focuses on the conditions of transformation of economic and political systems, the crisis of value orientations, the creation of a system of political socialization and the formation of a new political culture of urban youth in the Second Republic of Zimbabwe is required. Political socialization ensures the preservation and transmission of political experience to new generations, the continuity of political institutions, norms, values, and the stability of the political system of Zimbabwe. For the Second Republic of Zimbabwe, it is important to raise the level of political culture of young people and urban youth, to expand their understanding of their place and role in the political process. The political crisis in Zimbabwe has had a significant impact on the situation in Southern Africa and has been discussed more than once at the highest level both in the African region and on a global scale. It has become a test of the commitment of African states and organizations to the declared principles of solidarity and mutual assistance. The task of uniting international efforts in order to implement a coordinated policy aimed at achieving sustainable development in the region retains its practical significance in the context of the severity of existing ethnic, migration, social, economic and political problems.

In the article 'Resilience of Civilianic Democracy in the face of challenges and gaps in European Integration: the political dimension of the Index of Civiliancy', Ashot Aleksanyan and Arusyak Aleksanyan discuss the main political challenges of the EaP countries in achieving democratic consolidation, as well as the Civiliancy Index methodology for measuring and ranking the EaP countries. The EaP countries are forced to respond to the numerous and alarming challenges of post-Soviet authoritarian countries, environmental and demographic, energy and resource, aggravated by the danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, etc. The regional scale and radical nature of the changes taking place in the post-Soviet EaP countries

allow the authors to suggest the application of the Civiarchy index and the formation of a new system of Europeanization. In parallel with these processes, the article revises many provisions and phenomena of the Europeanization dimension that characterize the factors of European political integration of the EaP countries. Including one of the basic foundations of this system is the democratic sovereignty of the EaP countries as one of the key actors of European political integration. The authors draw attention to the fact that post-war Armenia and the Russian-Ukrainian war since 2022 create a new situation in the EaP space, which, despite the heavy legacy of past discord and wars, is uniting around the EU, and the EU, in turn, is accepting more and more new members. In the context of confrontation between the global West and Russia, the EU represents a new pole influencing political processes not only on the continent, but also throughout the world. The EaP countries found themselves at the crossroads of various paths for further development, approaching the transition to a new stage of political integration with the EU. Therefore, the EU, its institutions and processes are of interest to the authors and most researchers who are concerned about the strategic integration and European future of the EaP countries. It should be taken into account that political integration within the EU is the only one of its kind, and, therefore, unique in terms of the practical implementation of the ideas that have worried the authors since 2013.

In her article 'Understanding the dynamics of transition of the women's movement in Armenia: challenges for democratic representation and increasing political influence', Olga Azatyan analyzes various dimensions of the women's movement, which is dictated by the fact that, firstly, the degree of formation of civil society in Armenia cannot be assessed without taking into account the participation of women, who make up more than half of the population of our country. Secondly, the formation of civil society, the growth of public activity of citizens, the initiative of their associations are clearly manifested in the women's movement, due to the fact that this social group is able to react sharply to the processes and changes taking place in society, protecting not only their own interests, but also defending the positions of the least protected social groups of Armenian society. Having emerged as a social and political movement for the equality of men and women, the women's movement has grown into a movement for democratic progress, and the tasks and goals that the movement's participants set for themselves concern not only women, they are significant for the development of the entire Armenian society. In this sense, the participation of the women's movement in the social process cannot be isolated, considered outside the political process, since, being a form of citizens' participation in public life, these organizations do not oppose themselves to the political system, do not seek to replace the institutional structures of representative democracy. Quite the contrary, they ensure the viability of the democratic political system, introducing new topics for discussion into the public sphere, taking into account the understanding of changing social interests and values. The creation of women's associations, their consolidation provides this social group with the opportunity to be heard when making important political decisions. The practical activities of women's public associations not only confirm the developed political concepts of civil society, but also show that the participation of broad strata of the population in social movements is, in essence, a manifestation of the democratization of Armenian society.

This volume of the journal includes three book reviews on peace education and religion, human security in Asia, and an assessment of NATO expansion from the Cold War to the war between Russia and Ukraine. These books analyze the factors of peace education, global and regional security, and migration processes that lead to the fact that modern society, despite the education of uniform values in certain spheres of life, is excessively diverse in matters of religion and human security.

The instability of the situation indicates the absence of models of solutions, the need for theoretical understanding of the accumulated experience, forecasting and preventing interreligious conflicts and contradictions. A significant part of the questions regarding the form and content of modern religious education in the EaP countries are formulated by modern political pedagogical practice, predetermined by the search for social consensus, achieving public accord. Like all modern peace education, the specific features of religious education cannot be understood based only on the local context, since the influence of international trends and events brings the local context into the global one. Religious education is present in European countries in various forms and for various social groups, but it is impossible to speak of a single European approach to this issue. The organization and content of religious education or teaching of knowledge about religion differ significantly from country to country.

In various chapters of these books, the authors examine subsequent catastrophes and wars, taking into account the accompanying new, previously non-existent dangers up to the threat of the destruction of humanity. Society and culture can no longer today be guided by old ideas, by traditional forms of self-defense. It is necessary to look into the eyes of new dangers that are generated by reason itself, it is necessary to seek means of self-defense in the conditions of military conflicts and wars. According to the authors of the chapters of these books, the undeclared war between Russia and Ukraine since 2022, political Europeanization requires some acceptable form of overcoming the principle of non-interference in the sovereign affairs of the EaP countries and is accompanied by the introduction of new mechanisms for ensuring peace in peacekeeping operations, as well as international sanctions against authoritarian regimes into world practice. Various approaches to a comprehensive multi-stage system of European security are highlighted, as well as to what resilient mechanisms can still complement European integration and Europeanization of the EaP countries.

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