

# Towards a New Era of the Czech Journal of International Relations

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The first issue of 2023, which this editorial introduces, is also the first issue that comes out after the journal has switched completely into English. It ends a long and successful period of the journal's history, during which its Czech- (and Slovak-) language version *Mezinárodní vztahy* contributed significantly to the emergence and development of the discipline of International Relations (IR) in Czechia and Slovakia. The newly fully English-language *Czech Journal of International Relations* (CJIR) aims to continue in *Mezinárodní vztahy*'s legacy. But the change of language is not – and cannot be – the only change for the journal. Although our goal was once to cultivate Czech discussions about the international, we now become a fully-fledged part of the international. While this may, to some, seem as another coffin in the nail of national fields of the discipline, compare P. Drulák (2022) and O. Ditrych (2022), it gives us endless opportunities to contribute to and shape global discussions of International Relations. And this is what the journal intends to pursue in the new era.

Our aim is to produce theoretically informed, methodologically rigorous and empirically rich scholarship. We place no boundaries on the thematic and geographic scope, theoretical grounding and methodological approach of the submissions, and we intend to welcome pieces that transcend disciplinary boundaries. This does not mean that we are forgetting our roots as a small regional IR journal on the discipline's semi-periphery (KRATOCHVÍL 2016). We continue to engage with academic endeavors in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and we remain especially intrigued by the topics that resonate in this region. Concepts and theories of small states' behavior, international institutions, regionalism, the impacts of power rivalries and regional conflicts, climate change, migration and other topics will continue to be highly relevant and interesting for us. But we will place no limits on submissions as long as they fulfill their relevance in the sense of containing a critical interrogation of international politics and dedication to high quality standards.

What do we have to offer? A lot. The journal is a well-established one and not solely in CEE. The 70 years of its history have firmly embedded it into the worldwide disciplinary library. CJIR is indexed in Web of Science's Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and a variety of other databases, including Scopus, ERIH PLUS and others. CJIR is also an Open Access journal and all our articles are freely available to the academic

community without any production and licensing costs. CJIR articles are increasingly cited in the discipline's most prominent journals. Only in the last two years, CJIR articles were discussed in *Cooperation and Conflict*, *International Political Sociology*, *East European Politics*, *Contemporary Politics*, *International Relations*, *RUSI Journal*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics* and a variety of others. With the transition to English, we can only expect our citation indicator values to continue to grow.

We aim to distinguish ourselves from other, often much larger, disciplinary journals. In contrast to many of these we strive to be *fast* and *approachable*. Regarding the former, we understand that timeliness is ever more important in the contemporary world. We generally take no more than a few days for an initial desk evaluation, and average approximately two months from submission to the first post-review decision. After an article's acceptance, it takes, on average, a month to see the article come out as 'ahead of print'. Regarding the latter, we build on our tradition of cultivating IR scholarship by providing thorough editorial feedback prior to the peer review. We invite authors to discuss their pieces with us even before the submission is made to ensure that the piece has a potential to pass the review process. We have an established pool of reviewers from around the world, and we always aim to provide a constructive, rather than unproductive, feedback.

There are several other changes that we are introducing with the launch of the new *Czech Journal of International Relations*. In order to make article submission easier, we have introduced a format-free submission, and ask for compliance with journal standards only after the article's acceptance. We have also reformulated the criteria for the types of manuscripts we accept to better fit with the evolving literary and scientific practice. We have introduced the format of the Book Review Forums, in which authors and invited contributors exchange views on a newly published monograph relevant for deciphering the global relations of CEE in a transdisciplinary and critical perspective. We continue to publish shorter, single-blind reviewed Forum pieces, which aim to stimulate discussion and inspire debates in the theory and practice of international relations and other related disciplines. And we are in the process of reformulating the format for the Discussion articles to allow the authors to submit a more essayistic type

of publication presenting an original argument or engaging with contemporary theoretical debates and policy implementations.

The present issue, CJIR Vol 58, No. 1, is a testament to our endeavors and a sample of our future vision. It offers two highly relevant and important Research Articles, six shorter topical and timely Forum pieces, and two book reviews. The two full-length pieces aim to understand the various impacts of the Ukraine war. Michal Parížek (Charles University), in his paper *Worldwide Media Visibility of NATO, the European Union, and the United Nations in Connection to the Russia-Ukraine War*, skillfully analyses the media representation of the three large international organizations since the outbreak of the war. Presenting a rigorous large scale content analysis, Parížek illustrates the variations of the media visibility of these organizations and draws these back to theorize the connection between media visibility and scope of action. The war in Ukraine is also the topic of Stephanie Winkler's (Stockholm University) article *U.S.-Chinese Strategic Competition and the Ukraine War: Implications for Asian-Pacific Security*. Winkler asks how the war impacted on the Asian-Pacific security. Analyzing hundreds of pieces of qualitative data, she posits that though it may seem that the war has drawn attention away from Asia, it has in fact exacerbated the security dilemma between the United States and China in the Asia-Pacific.

Besides these two articles, Issue 1 of 2023 also offers a Forum on the Czech Presidency in the Council of the European Union and two book reviews. The presidency came at the complicated time of a conflict at the EU's borders, which was accompanied by an unprecedented energy crisis and a subsequent cost of living crisis. We ask how the Czech representatives fared under these conditions, and offer a variety of answers from some of the foremost scholars in the field. Oldřich Bureš (Metropolitan University Prague) and Monika Sus (Polish Academy of Science) investigate the external security policy dimension of the presidency, Martin Jirušek (Masaryk University) and Izabella Surwillo (Danish Institute of International Studies) consider the presidency's role in achieving energy security for the EU and Ivo Šlosarčík (Charles University), together with Sonja Priebus (European University Viadrina), reflects on the Czech handling of the rule of law in the Union. The Forum is edited by Jan Kovář (University of New York in Prague and Institute of International Relations Prague) and Tomáš Weiss (Charles

University). The book reviews were written by Matěj Boček (University of West Bohemia) and Evgeny Romanovskiy (Charles University).

On behalf of the whole editorial team, I wish you a pleasant read.

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