

EDITORIAL

We are handing to our readers the third issue in 2019 of our academic quarterly which – as always – is not only extensive, but also interesting. We are publishing articles and studies of an economic and political nature, devoted to contemporary international relations and important socio-political and legal issues, all of them in the English language. The articles are the result of scientific research conducted by researcher in various scientific and research centres in Poland and abroad.

The presented quarterly should be of particular interest to economists and political scientists, researchers and experts in the field of international relations, as well as students, doctoral students, teachers and publicists. This quarterly contains many original academic texts devoted to current and important economic, social, political and international problems that many countries today, including Poland, are struggling with. It shows the complexity and dynamics of the modern world and the problems faced by individual countries. I would like to draw attention to the original theses and hypotheses formulated by individual authors, encouraging reflection and discussion. I hope that, like all volumes of “Myśl Ekonomiczna i Polityczna” [‘Economic and Political Thought’] published so far, also this one will be of interest to a wide range of readers and will be received with great attention.

The presented issue of the quarterly, according to our practice and rules adopted by the editorial office, consists of two parts: the first one which is devoted to broadly understood economic issues, and the second pertaining to social and political problems and international affairs in Europe and the world.

In the first, economic, part we are publishing three articles. It opens with Krzysztof Falkowski’s article entitled ‘Institutional Weaknesses of Ukraine’s National System and Their Consequences for the Country’s International Competitiveness’, in which the author shows institutional weaknesses of Ukraine’s National Innovation System and tries to determine their consequences for the competitiveness of the Ukrainian economy in terms of

international trade in high-technology and medium-high-technology goods, i.e. those created in industries based on knowledge and modern technologies. The author concludes his considerations with the statement that the carried out analysis of the dynamics of the revealed comparative advantages in Ukrainian exports in the years 2001–2016 clearly shows that the Ukrainian economy not only did not have any long-term comparative advantages in trade in high-technology and medium-high-technology goods in this period, but also its competitive position deteriorated in this respect.

The subject of the analysis in the next article by Mieczysław Błoński entitled ‘Health Care Systems in Spain and Portugal – Economic Approach’ are economic conditions of health care systems in Spain and Portugal. The article describes their organisational structures and entities operating in them. Portugal holds the 13th and Spain the 19th position in the European ranking of health systems – the Euro Health Consumer Index – examining these systems using fifty detailed criteria. In the author’s opinion, ‘a permanent prescription’, used in Spain for many years, is worthy of more thorough research and transfer to the Polish healthcare system as it significantly reduces doctors’ workload not directly related to treatment, and consequently their shortage.

The next, third article in this part of the quarterly is the article by Grzegorz Kozłowski entitled ‘Contemporary Political and R&D Determinants of the Level of the United States Defence Spending’. The author writes here, among others, that in the United States the debate on the level of defence expenditures necessary to ensure the state security is interminable. Capturing the state of threats to which an ‘adequate’ level of financing would be an answer is very difficult. The author writes that in such conditions two essential elements are crucial for determining defence spending. Firstly, internal political conditions (the Republicans are more willing to spend more money than the Democrats) and external ones (using military potential to maintain the hegemonistic position of the United States in relation to allies and adversaries); secondly, research and development conditions, focused on preserving the technological supremacy of the United States in the world and having beneficial implications for the development of innovation, both in the defence and civil sectors.

The second part devoted to political science opens with Dagmara Mateja’s article entitled ‘The Impact of New Media on Shaping Public Opinion in the Post-Industrial Era. Government Regulations in the Fight Against Disinformation’. The author analyses here the process of spreading false information on the Internet, its goals and conditions and methods of

combating these phenomena in individual countries. The article shows the changes and consequences that users of new media must face. As a result of the unprecedented development of technology and disinformation that is spreading thereby, the tendency to fix erroneous beliefs in society is becoming more and more visible. The author goes on to say that while traditional media are subject to institutional control, in the case of social media communication possibilities seem unlimited as they are subject only to social control, which in turn translates into the amount of rippling pernicious content.

I would also like to draw your attention to an interesting article with considerable theoretical and utilitarian merits by Zaza Tavadze devoted to various aspects of the parliament's activities in Georgia in the process of legislation and law-making.

The next article in this part is Daria Nałęcz's treatise on 'The USSR in the Policy of the Government and President Wojciech Jaruzelski in 1989–1990'. It is devoted to President Wojciech Jaruzelski and his attitude to the Soviet Union in 1989–1990, that is in the difficult period of political transformation and reorientation of foreign policy in Poland. The subsequent text by Józef M. Fiszer entitled 'The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Sejm and Senate Elections in 1989. Systemic Transformation in Poland and its Consequences for Europe and the World' corresponds to the above article. It is dedicated to the elections to the Sejm and Senate on 4 June 1989 about which historians and political scientists have argued to this day. The indisputable fact is that they were the result of negotiations and agreements reached at the 'round table', which inaugurated the process of radical changes in Europe, which went down in history under the name of the 'autumn of nations of 1989'.

Then there is the article by Mateusz Czasak under the title 'Difficult Perspectives for Polish Foreign Policy – A Report from the Fourth National Political Science Congress'. This article is in fact a report from the discussion panel on 'Poland's Foreign Policy in Times of Change in Europe and the World in the Twenty-First Century: Directions, Goals, Forms, Opportunities and Threats' organised on 18 September 2018 during the Fourth National Political Science Congress entitled 'The State in Times of Change'. During the discussion numerous interesting, theoretically and practically significant theses and hypotheses were formulated. They are presented and analysed in this article.

The last text in this part of the presented quarterly entitled 'Tradition and the Past in the Political Thought of the National Party (1928–1939)', authored by Aneta Dawidowicz, is devoted to political thought of the National Party which is enjoying a renaissance in Poland today. The author reminds us that

for the ideologues of the National Party the memory of the past was the main source of national identity and the sense of belonging to the nation. Getting to know the historical past of the nation was a guarantee of its comprehensive development in the future and understanding of reality.

The presented issue of the quarterly finishes with two reviews of the latest, recently published academic books, which are devoted to the theoretical and practical aspects of shaping the new global order and international security.

We wish all our readers interesting reading and we encourage everyone to cooperate with our editorial board and the Lazarski University in Warsaw, one of the best universities in Poland. This year's secondary school graduates are invited to take up interesting studies at our University, including also in the field of 'international relations'.

Professor, Ph.D. Józef M. Fiszer