

EDITORIAL

Today we are handing to our readers the third issue of our academic quarterly in 2018, which we are traditionally publishing in English. In terms of volume it is very extensive, and in terms of content it is interesting and certainly deserves attention. We are publishing eleven original articles in the field of social sciences, in particular in economics, political sciences and international relations. We are publishing articles that are the result of scientific research conducted by individual authors as part of various research projects or are excerpts from scientific dissertations – doctoral and postdoctoral, or professorial.

We are addressing this issue in particular to economists, political scientists and experts in contemporary international relations, as well as to teachers, doctoral students and students. We are also recommending it to politicians and publicists as it contains many original thoughts, interesting theses and hypotheses regarding important, current economic, financial, social, political and international problems. A lot of attention is devoted in the articles to problems concerning Poland, Europe and the world. That is why we hope that, like all volumes of “Myśl Ekonomiczna i Polityczna” [‘Economic and Political Thought’] published so far, this one will also be of interest to a wide range of readers in Poland and abroad and will be received with great attention and applied in practice.

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 issues and international relations.

In the first part we are publishing five articles. It opens with the article by American researcher Clifford A. Bates entitled ‘Carl Schmitt and the Limits of the Modern Liberal State’, in which the author presents the views of eminent German philosopher Carl Schmitt on liberalism and its role in the development of a modern, democratic state. In the next article entitled ‘The

Analysis of the Influence of Religion on Economic Growth in the Context of Max Weber's Views' its author Janusz Myszczyszyn writes about the role of religion in economic processes of the state. He verifies the thesis of Max Weber, who connected the development of capitalism with, among others, the increase of rationality caused by a particular religion, i.e. Protestantism. Using his own econometric model, the author shows, on the example of Germany, that the Protestant religion, apart from the level of emigration and the percentage of people working in agriculture, was important for creating social welfare (GDP), but – in his opinion – this is a negative dependence, because an increase in the number of Protestants led to a drop in GDP growth.

The next, third article in this part of the quarterly is the article by Jakub Marszałek entitled 'Determinants of R&D Activity – Analysis of the Polish Logistics Sector'. The aim of the article is to identify factors significantly affecting the level of R&D investment and to determine the strength of this impact. The research involved 950 Polish logistics companies. Three groups of potential R&D determinants of the studied entities were distinguished as explanatory variables: intensity of competition, financial conditions of the enterprise and macroeconomic determinants. The survey showed that R&D activities of logistic companies are primarily carried out by larger enterprises, conducting conservative financing policy based on low indebtedness and high financial liquidity. The study did not confirm the impact of competition on R&D activity, which – according to the author – may result from the growth of the sector itself. However, the availability of road infrastructure and urbanised areas is a factor significantly affecting R&D.

The subsequent, fourth article is the article by Jacek Lewkowicz entitled 'Firm-specific Human Capital as a Contract Determining Factor – a Reason for Internal Bilateral Interdependence between the Employer and the Employee'. In this article the author discusses an interesting and complex problem for companies, namely the consequences of employing a worker with human capital specific for a given company. Such a situation implies some kind of interdependence between the employer and the employee, whose knowledge and skills can be perceived as specific assets. Both parties are strongly interdependent: the employer must rely on the employee, who in turn is not able to easily find an alternative job based on human capital. The article contains proposals for solving this type of problem by referring to transaction cost economics theory and agency theory.

Then there is the text written by three authors, i.e. Ewa Cichowicz, Ewa Rollnik-Sadowska and Justyna Kozłowska, entitled 'The Assessment of Technical Efficiency in Public Employment Services', which is devoted to the ana-

lysis and assessment of various techniques and systems used for professional activation and measurement of work effectiveness in various public sector services, e.g. in broadly understood education or banking.

The second part of the presented journal, concerning political science, contains six interesting texts, mostly devoted to various problems and aspects of the activity of the European Union. It opens with Michał Kuź's article under the title 'France, Russia, USA: on Hegemony, Revolutions and Wars'. On the basis of specific examples, the author discusses various types of warfare to which countries are exposed after the start of a revolution. The cases described by the author show that all revolutionary states are in a similarly uncertain situation, despite various specific threats they may meet.

Further there is Jerzy Zarzycki-Siek's article entitled 'Integration through Control: the Model of Power Hijacking as an Alternative View on European Union Integration'. As its title suggests, the aim of the article is to analyse integration processes taking place within the European Union in the light of game theory and its alternative models.

The next article, prepared by Mateusz Czasak, entitled 'The Role of the Weimar Triangle in the Processes of European Integration in 1991–2004' is very interesting. The author shows the genesis of this informal grouping of three states, i.e. Germany, France and Poland in 1991, and its activities for the integration of post-communist Europe in 1991–2004. He emphasises that the activities of the Weimar Triangle significantly contributed to the processes of integration of Europe, especially of Central and Eastern Europe, on many levels.

The following text is the article authored by Józef M. Fiszer, entitled 'The Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation of 17 June 1991 between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany: Origin, Aims and Implementation. Successes, Failures and Prospects in the Context of the Migration Crisis in Europe'. The aim of this article is to show the genesis of the Polish-German treaty on good neighborliness and friendly cooperation of 17 June 1991 and its importance for the reconciliation and development of comprehensive cooperation between Poland and Germany in the context of the current migration crisis in Europe. The author formulates a few interesting theses and tries to answer many questions concerning Polish-German relations in the period 1989–2018 and their conditions and prospects. He emphasises that in the last two years Polish-German relations, especially political ones, have deteriorated considerably, and one of the reasons for this is the immigration crisis in Europe.

Another engaging text in this part of the quarterly is the article by Katarzyna Gmaj and Krystyna Iglicka under the title 'Immigrant Voters in Poland

– Being just “Right behind the Corner”, in which the authors analyse the situation of immigrants in Poland, their political commitment and the attitude of particular political parties to them.

The last treatise here is the extensive article ‘Development and Shift of US Occupation Policy in Japan (1945–1951) in the International Context’ by Mikołaj Kukowski, in which the author shows the influence of the American occupation of Japan on its political, social and economic system after the Second World War.

The presented issue of “Myśl Ekonomiczna i Polityczna” [‘Economic and Political Thought’] closes with two reviews of the latest, very interesting scholarly books devoted to President Barack Obama and his foreign policy and Polish-Ukrainian relations in 1991–2017.

We are happy to inform you that the quarterly “Myśl Ekonomiczna i Polityczna” [‘Economic and Political Thought’] has achieved another success, namely since 27 April 2018 it has been indexed in the international database of high-value scientific journals ERIH PLUS. At the same time I would like to remind you that our quarterly is also indexed in the database of journals INDEX COPERNICUS, in the Central and Eastern Online Library (CEEOL) database and in the BazHum database. In addition, we have already applied to Clarivate Analytics for including “Myśl Ekonomiczna i Polityczna” [‘Economic and Political Thought’] in the Web of Science database.

We wish all our readers interesting reading and we encourage everyone to cooperate with our editorial board and the Lazarski University, one of the best universities in Poland, which is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its activity this year.

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