

Introduction

The emergence of the European Union (EU) was associated with at least two strong currents present in the evolution of the unification tendencies of Europe. Until modern times, one can observe the wear and tear of unification ideas, which basically have one goal – the sovereignty of individual EU members. Despite the many difficulties in establishing the present structure of a united Europe, it is to these currents that we owe the contemporary political shape of the EU.

The origins of multilateral cooperation between Central European countries should be traced back to the 1980s. Political and social changes associated with the collapse of the Soviet bloc resulted in the establishment of closer forms of cooperation among European countries. However, there was still uncertainty about maintaining the regained independence, which was largely due to the geopolitical situation of European countries.

Analysing the political reality of the time during the Cold War, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe seemed to think that integration would be the best step towards subordination to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Combining the forces of several states and developing a vision of a common foreign policy would give a boost to independence from power in the Kremlin. The issue of security and integration has proved to be the most important and is still relevant for the future not only of the EU but also of Europe. The second decade of the 21st century brought new threats in the form of the migration crisis and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Undoubtedly, following Russia's aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, there has been a change in the security architecture in Europe, which requires the development of a policy of cohesion among European states, taking into account transatlantic relations.

Mass immigration is the biggest challenge facing the EU today. In retrospect, it can also be seen that it created a rift between the member states and revealed their lack of solidarity. The crisis is believed to have started in 2015, but the number of migrants and refugees arriving in Europe was already increasing before that year. The crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border, as well as on the eastern border of the Baltic States, is one of the elements of this problem. Thus, the issue of security is one of the main imponderables for European countries, so concern for its sustainability should determine the directions of cooperation not only in the EU forum but also in regional formats.

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the second issue of the journal "Studies and Analyses of Political Science" in 2022. The first article, written by Piotr Olszewski, concerns *Terrorism in Modern Denmark*. Denmark was not the scene of a mass terrorist attack, but after 2015, due to the migration crisis and the influx of migrants from Africa, such attacks intensified. The author pointed out the threats posed by Islamic terrorists.

The second article is the work of Beata Łaciak, Cezary Smuniewski and Mariusz Boguszewski *The 2021 Migration Crisis in the Eyes of the Polish Priests from the Polish-Belarusian Borderland*. The authors analysed the social moods, mainly of the clergy living in the border area with Belarus. In 2021, incidents related to the crossing of the Polish-Belarusian border by migrants from Africa have intensified, which consequently triggered a migration crisis on the eastern border of the EU.

Another article by Izabela Rycerska *Assistance to Refugees from Ukraine in Ensuring a Dignified Stay and Security in Poland by Local Government Units in Legal Regulations* raises important and constantly topical issues related to the influx of refugees from Ukraine. Russia's aggression in Ukraine has caused mass movements of the Ukrainian population towards the borders of EU member states, mainly to Poland. Poland has taken in the largest number of refugees from Ukraine, which has involved organising not only emergency aid but also systemic aid aimed at a longer stay of Ukrainians in our country.

The problems of the penitentiary system in Poland are reflected in the article by Ryszard Suduł *The Penitentiary System in Ensuring Security in Poland*. The author drew attention to the place and role of this formation and its impact on the internal security of the state, mainly in the social aspect. In addition, he analysed the legal acts on which the penitentiary system in Poland is based.

The last article of this part of the journal is the work of Sylwia Gorlicka *The Chechen Question in Post-1991 Israeli-Russian Relations* which brought closer the problems of the formation of the Chechen state and pointed to the sources of Chechen separatism. The topic of the article is extremely relevant in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, in which the leader of the Chechens, Ramzan Kadyrov, acts as an ally of Russia.

An integral part of the journal "Studies and Analyses of Political Science" are reviews and reports, and in the current issue also review articles. In this area, we present an article by Błażej Bado *Values and National Security of Poland. Observations Made when Reading Cezary Smuniewski's Book Entitled "National Security of Poland in the Axiological Perspective. President Lech Wałęsa."* There are also two reviews in this volume. The first was undertaken by Stanisław Wójcik and it concerns the publication of Kazimierz Korab *Wojna ideologiczna* [Ideological War]. The second was written by Dorota Maj, and the subject of the review is a book *Społeczne postrzeganie przywództwa Jana Pawła II* [Social Perception of John Paul II's Leadership] by Agnieszka Łukasik-Turecka and Agnieszka Magdalena Zaręba. In addition, the issue includes the report of Grzegorz Nizioł, which relates to the International Conference on migration policy of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

We invite you to read

Aneta Bąk-Pitucha

