

## Introduction

We are pleased to present our Readers with the twelfth issue of the journal "Studies and Analyses of Political Science." Over the course of six years of activity, our journal has been placed in numerous databases, such as Arianta, Index Copernicus Journals Master List, Polish Scientific Bibliography (PBN), Google Scholar, The Central European Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (CEJSH), Library of Science, BRIDGE of Knowledge, KUL Institutional Repository, WorldCat, ERIH PLUS, SHERPA/RoMEO, and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). We hope that indexing in the above databases will translate into greater recognition of the journal and faster reach to the audience.

The theme of this issue revolves around the broadly understood processes of systemic transition and liberal democracy at many levels: European, regional, and civic. In the first article, Krystyna Leszczyńska-Wichmanowska focuses on the process of political elite replacement in Poland. The author pointed out that Solidarity governments were almost exclusively made up of men (97%). This state of affairs resulted from social factors, including, above all, existing stereotypes about both women and politics. More than half of the members of the Solidarity cabinets (52%) had degrees and titles. The reason for the inclusion of a large number of academics in the political mainstream was primarily the deficit of experts-practitioners.

The second article was prepared by Maria Marczewska-Rytko. In it, the author raises the issue of European Parliament elections, which are usually perceived as second-order elections compared to parliamentary or presidential elections (first-order). The 2019 European Parliament elections in Poland saw the highest turnout of any such elections to date. The author analysed the European Parliament elections in the context of

the Second-Order Election concept and found that some of its assumptions were confirmed, while others were disproved.

The third text was written by Dawid Pieniężny and concerns a case in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century liberal democracy. Catholic Bishop Fernando Lugo became president of Paraguay. The author analysed the legal and factual possibilities of assuming the office of president of Paraguay by a Catholic clergyman. An analysis of the case study against the background of normative conditions confirmed that this case is precedent-setting.

In the fourth article, Krzysztof Jurek refers to the participatory budget, which has been implemented in Poland since 2011. The author attempted to analyse the differentiation of the way of organising and implementing citizens' budgets in selected local government units in Poland. He pointed out the factors determining different implementation practices, resulting from local conditions and the specific nature of individual local government units.

The first part of the journal, devoted to articles, concludes with reflections by Oral Orpak on the Yazidi diaspora in the Federal Republic of Germany. According to the author, the quest of Yazidis to gain legal recognition as a religious minority faces several unique challenges: the country's decentralized federal system and the lack of a formal constitution for the religion and community of Yazidis. The author presented the latest developments in the Yazidi diaspora in Germany and outlined strategies to achieve its official recognition.

An integral part of the journal "Studies and Analyses of Political Science" is reports. In this issue, Anna Szwed-Walczak has prepared a review of Jan Ryszard Sielezin's book *Wybrane zagadnienia z metodologii badań. Kontekst historyczny i aktualne problemy* [Selected Issues in Research Methodology: Historical Context and Current Problems]. Krzysztof Jurek's report from the National Scientific Conference "Civil and Family Law Facing the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: An International Perspective" organized by the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń closes the issue of the journal.

We invite you to read

*Agnieszka Łukasik-Turecka, Agnieszka Zaręba*