

Editor's Note

One of the objectives of Journal of European Studies has been to encourage publications from different streams of research to enrich the socio-political discourse. Readers can notice the progress made in this direction. Latest official texts from the European Union as well as book reviews have been emerging as a regular feature of the Journal. Our primary role as editor is to encourage the best work to be submitted and then to manage a fair process of review.

The issue opens with an article on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It deals with an issue that has Friedrich Ratzel's concept of *lebensraum*. The history of international politics is a continuous theme of war and peace. For realist thinkers, what we call "peace" is a state of equilibrium; when the competitors have reached a balance of power. Or it may be an overwhelming domination of one power for a generation or two until exhaustion sets in and its dwindling fortunes enables its rivals to gather strength and mount a challenge.

It addresses the regional and bilateral issues with a blend of neo-realism. The phenomena of resource politics are also active due to a vast reserve of natural resources in the region, the core of the Eurasian landmass, which is widely known as the *pivot*. Mackinder's pivot area was the product of the 'Great Game'. The new great game is evidently a power struggle for the Heartland's energy resources, which in reality constitute the stepping stones for clashing hegemonic interest.

The second article sheds light on another dimension of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. It deals with the reality of critical geopolitics, which is the scramble for resources and influence by the big powers in the region. The quest is quite old but recent Russo-Ukraine tussle is drifting towards an even larger and more complex quagmire of competing interests involving Russia, the EU, the US and the neighbourhood. The only viable solutions for Russia and Ukraine are bilateral management of issues and reconciliation through dialogue.

Now there are growing indications that the distribution of power in the international system has shifted from Samuel Huntington's "uni-multipolar" to multipolar. According to this perspective, the post-Soviet era of US dominance is over. We have entered the multipolar world.

The third article discusses the role of carbon neutral LNG and climate change. It sketches the upcoming scenario with the possible Russian gas phase-out that was initiated in 2022. Liquefied gas will become a popular alternative to meet European energy needs.

The EU stands at a critical juncture in its commitment to energy transition and action against climate change. However, as the EU deepens and accelerates its energy transition, climate action must become a more pivotal issue. Certainly, Europe's energy transition carries far-reaching effects, particularly for the bloc's relations with the world. Simultaneously, the impact of climate change on politics and interstate relations globally will present increasingly pressing challenges for the EU's security.

The EU has added useful climate elements to its security policies, but the strategic mindset still needs to shift towards a recognition for more fundamental change. The Union needs to move beyond containment and support long-lasting systematic change.

The fourth paper analyzes limitations on parliamentary sovereignty in the UK. It measures the extent to which Brexit would impact the EU's influence over British public policies. It identifies several pathways to the EU-UK relationship. They can be conceptualized along a continuum from de-Europeanization to re-engagement.

Finally, the concluding article deals with Toni Morrison's selected novels related to the politics of "Feminist mothering". The subject has relevancy with the emerging dimensions of feminism. Morrison's theory is useful in defining her larger political and philosophical stance on motherhood. Most European narratives, particularly Anglo-American narratives on motherhood between 80s and 90s, are "daughter-centric" and approach motherhood the way it has been defined by patriarchal culture.

Within the framework of research journal, I would like to emphasize my commitment to publishing research on important issues, the new world, and

vibrant new perspectives at their expanding diverse fronts. All these are promising signs for increasing the readership and maintaining the standard of this journal which is now more than 37 years old.

The global trends signal a robust publishing environment. In such a scenario, maintaining academic quality, reader friendliness, and fairness towards contributors are necessary prerequisites.

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