

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first 2017 issue of *AUC Studia Territorialis*. We hope you will find the texts both thought-stimulating and rewarding.

Apart from shorter materials including two critical book reviews as well as a report on a new data archive project, the present issue brings three full-length articles from the geographical areas covered by the journal's aims and scope. Two build upon and further expand our knowledge of transnational history of Europe; the third one is a contribution to the theory of warfare and our understanding of U.S. military strategy.

In her opening study, Natali Stegmann reconstructs the formation of the new European order following the 1919 Treaty of Versailles. The post-WWI territorial setting provided for the establishment of new states in East Central Europe on the ruins of former transnational empires. Of equal importance, the Versailles system inaugurated the creation of new international organizations aiming for lasting peace. The International Labour Organization (ILO), a branch of the newly founded League of Nations, was supposed to become the key institutional pillar of social and labor policies. Making use of archival holdings from ILO's offices in Warsaw and Prague, Stegmann explores how interwar Poland and Czechoslovakia developed their social insurance systems in line with the international labor standards set out by the ILO. Contrasting these impulses with the two states' inherited Austrian and German social welfare schemes, the study illustrates the complex interplay of social-policy making on national as well as international levels.

In the second article, Michel Christian, Sandrine Kott and Ondřej Matějka contribute to the study of international organizations in the Cold War era. The authors consider international organizations a platform for maintaining East-West contacts among various groups of actors across the Iron Curtain. Relying

largely on a biographical approach, they seek to explain the conditions and underlying factors that made these transnational contacts possible. Taking the examples of the ILO, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the World Council of Churches, the authors argue that specific “epistemic communities” sharing a compatible vision of modernity slowly emerged within these international organizations, in spite of ideological differences between East and West.

The third article, authored by Jan Beneš, traces the origins and evolution of the U.S. counterinsurgency strategy (COIN) in the context of post-9/11 War on Terror. The author identifies three main development phases of modern U.S. counterinsurgency strategy: shock and awe, population-centric approach, and targeted COIN. Using the concept of “strategic culture,” he shows how deeply these changes in U.S. military thinking were embedded in the tradition of American exceptionalism.

Enjoy your reading.

Jan Šír