

EDITOR'S NOTE

The second issue of the Journal on Baltic Security focuses on the developments that took much of media attention in Europe and the three Baltic countries over the last half a year – mass influx of refugees to Europe and the attempts of the EU and national governments to tackle this situation. While the question of refugees has created tensions in all the European countries, the Eastern European members of the EU in general and the Baltic States in particular have often been singled out for the lack of solidarity and apparent unwillingness to help out their struggling allies.

In this issue of the Journal we present four articles addressing this topic: one from the EU perspective with implications for the security of the three Baltic States and three looking at the debates in the three Baltic States. The first article by Ažuolas Bagdonas looks at the ways of solving the crisis at the EU level and the implications for the Baltic States of these policy decisions arguing for the importance of the rules-based system and the interest of the Baltic States in upholding such a system.

The article by Viljar Veebel looks at the Estonian discussion of the refugee crisis and its possible solutions. The author points out the numerous flaws in the EU relocation mechanisms and discusses their implications as well as security risks that ‘unwanted’ relocation may cause inside the country. Lack of economic resources, experience and skills, he argues, together with the poor management of communication on the issue greatly diminishes the chances of success of the relocation scheme in the country. The next article takes on the Latvian case and analyses it through the framework of spaces of fear and security. The authors analyse the public debate in Latvia on the refugee crisis and explain the supposed hostility of Latvians towards the EU relocation scheme

by pointing to the failure of integrating Latvia's large Russian speaking minority over the last 25 years. Finally, the article on Lithuania looks at the Lithuanian management of the refugee crisis through institutional and discursive dimensions and notes that while institutional practice reflects strong securitization of the issue, seeing refugees largely as potential threats to (hard) security, the discourse surrounding refugees in the country revolves around the economic issues.

The two book reviews in this volume also try to contextualize the current refugee crisis in the wider historical ('Goodbye Comrades, we miss you not') and philosophical ('We can be') debates about the 'European idea.' In addition, this volume contains two research articles on topics of importance for the region and for military education, addressing the issues of Russian soft power and its uses (or lack thereof) in the Baltics compared to that of the EU's soft power as well as discussion of the newest ideas and best takes in the analysis of military leadership.

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