

War, Propaganda and Political Process in Post-Soviet Societies

Editorial Introduction

The war in Eastern Ukraine has made its impact not only on polities and societies of all involved sides. It has also influenced the scholars who study post-Soviet societies. The academic community that was supposed to remain unbiased and sober on the subject of their studies, is deeply involved in discussions much wider than the academic framework and divided along the lines of non-academic nature.

The IPJ team has met with an unprecedented division of opinions among our authors and reviewers. Out of over thirty submitted texts for this issue, only three articles have each received two positive reviews. Thus our issue turned out to be minimalist.

This issue of the Ideology and Politics Journal opens with an article by Kostiantyn Fedorenko who compares roles of nationalists and liberals in the events that are known as 'Euromaidan'. Fedorenko shows that both groups have been co-authors of the protests at the tactical level. Yet each group has actually preserved the purity of their ideologies and strategies. Fedorenko's 'two-movements approach' constitutes a researcher's position able to avoid over-generalizations in regard with the Euromaidan and its ideological background.

Olga Gulina analyzes possible political solutions to the current Eastern European crisis. The author identifies three possible scenarios to resolve the Ukrainian crisis by political means: 'cold war', 'cold peace', and 'peaceful coexistence'. Assessment of these scenarios has scholarly but also political significance. Gulina's idea that the 'cold peace' approach can be of some healing quality deserves attention and further discussion.

In the article by Mariëlle Wijermars – that finishes our issue – there is an analysis of how myth functions in contemporary Russian politics. The

author studies the emergence of the political myth of Pyotr Stolypin, the myth of the Time of Troubles and their utility for the regime. Wijermars argues that these myths have an ambivalent role in promotion of the ideology of 'stability' and a fear of fragility of political order in today's Russian society.

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