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## **Editorial: The Conflict in Ukraine – the Reactivation of Geopolitics?**

The turn of the 20th and 21st century was the time when the notion of the demise of geopolitics and the triumph of globalization was very popular. However, the conflict in Ukraine and the intensification of Russian Federation's imperial ambitions proved this belief wrong. Geopolitics has certainly not become less meaningful and the situation across our eastern border serves to remind us that war – as a social and political phenomenon – is a permanent element of international relations and Europe, which seemed certain of its stability and security, is no exception. The hybrid war initiated in Ukraine in 2014 is still being waged and there are few signs of this conflict, which is destabilizing Europe, coming to an end.

Current comments focus primarily on describing the situation in Ukraine. Academic discussions and experts' interpretations, on the other hand, aim at analyzing the causes and consequences of the conflict.

It is the above topics – seen from different perspectives – that this issue of “The Horizons of Politics” is dedicated to. In our topic section we propose three articles. Tomasz Grabowski in his text *The Methods of Information War in Electronic Media* analyses the Russian-Ukrainian conflict focusing on information operations which he considers significant for the hybrid war taking place in Ukraine.

Wojciech Michnik, in his article *The Consequences of the Conflict in Ukraine for the Strategy of the United States in Europe*

analyses the decisions taken by Barack Obama's administration after the breakout of the hybrid war in Ukraine. He also describes the strategic dilemmas of the American security policy and the American policy towards Russia after the annexation of Crimea.

Patric Vaughan in his text *Between East and West: Zbigniew Brzeziński and Ukraine 1977-2015* describes the concepts and actions undertaken by Zbigniew Brzeziński, which led initially to creating a plan of enhancing autonomic aspirations inside the Soviet Union and consequently to strengthening the Ukrainian striving for independence. The author also describes Brzeziński's activity aimed at emphasizing Putins' imperial aspirations, the annexation of Crimea in 2014 being a blatant expression thereof.

The above articles stress the importance of the Ukrainian problem and the necessity of redefining international security policy. Although they do not exhaust the subject, they encourage further research into the conflict in Ukraine which remains one of the key areas of international relations.

Filip Musiał