

Editorial

Five years Forum of EthnoGeoPolitics

Babak Rezvani

Introduction

It was in 2011 that we in the Association for the Study of EthnoGeoPolitics decided to publish a scientific, peer-reviewed journal. We envisaged that it should be a journal quite different from the existing journals. No longer embedded in the existing templates and conventions, it was and is intended to and should introduce innovative and diverse types of articles. We worked in 2012 on it and in the Spring of 2013 we published the first number of *Forum of EthnoGeoPolitics*.

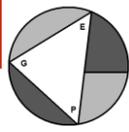
In order to mark this achievement, and to reach a wider audience on the Eurasian continent, we have decided to republish here, as a special article in the celebratory issue, the Editorial of the said maiden issue, written by the editor-in-chief and titled “EthnoGeoPolitics and its Forum”, in Russian. Dr. Marat Iliysov from the University of St Andrews and a new member of our editorial board, has assisted him the Russian translation (this reproduction includes a short Abstract in English).

Although English remains the main language of this journal, we have decided to allow also articles in other languages to be included. From now on we seek to publish one or more Russian-language articles in each number, and we may include articles in other languages as well, such as German, Dutch, Persian or Spanish in our upcoming issues in the future—presuming, of course, that such non-English articles will be submitted in sufficient numbers. Such articles, if submitted and approved for publication, will be provided with short abstracts i.e. summaries in English.

Thanks to the efforts of our editorial board—particularly of Caspar ten Dam, our executive editor, and Arnav Anjaria, our energetic English-language editor—our journal has managed to exist for five years. We aim to be and remain a transparent journal, which means that we prefer to publish comments of peer-reviewers under their own name. However, this is not obligatory as many reviewers prefer to remain anonymous. Many even ask us not to publish their reviews and comments at all.

We should clarify certain issues and address a few questions that we receive quite often. We are a peer-reviewed and open-access journal. However, we do not charge a production fee from the authors. Only the quality of their papers and the originality of their ideas, approaches and arguments are decisive criteria for us to publish their contributions.

Furthermore, the journal is not responsible for any controversial and/or contestable statements done in its articles. Only the authors of these articles are responsible for their statements. Even members of the editorial team may have different views on certain issues.



Everyone is free to express his or her own views. Everyone may comment on any article published in this journal and the authors have the chance to respond. After all, one of the main objectives of the journal has always been to engender academic debate and a fruitful exchange of research findings and ideas. Consequently, when authors may make 'strong' statements in their contributions we do not discourage them to make these—as so many other academic journals tend to do in their overly cautious and conservative editorial policies.

In our view, 'strong' statements are not necessarily unscientific or unfounded, and can contribute to new understandings and insights even if these turn out to be unfounded or at least contestable—as long as these are thought-provoking and thus at least potentially fruitful.

We appreciate your cooperation with us. We will be glad to review and publish one or more of your articles, and invite other scholars among you to act as (peer-)reviewers. We would also ask funds and private persons to sponsor and keep sponsoring the Association for the Study of EthnoGeoPolitics. Your support enables us to organise seminars and publish journals and books, and remain an independent organisation and publish a good-quality, and politically neutral, journal.

Babak Rezvani, Editor-in-Chief November 2017

NB: do you have any comments on the editorial? Please send these to info@ethnogeopolitics.org, or through the contact form at www.ethnogeopolitics.org.



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