



Preface

This issue of the *Kyiv-Mohyla Law and Politics Journal* (KMLPJ) meets its readers on the third anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity. Exactly three years ago on November 21, 2013, the government of Ukraine announced the refusal to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. Thereby, the foreign policy of Ukraine, based on the objective of European integration, was forcefully changed and reverted towards integration and gradual membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, thus bouncing Ukraine into the orbit of influence of the Russian Federation. Such a flagrant violation of democratic principles and foundations of Ukrainian sovereignty and constitutional freedoms caused popular protests and led crowds of people to the Maidan (Independence Square) to fight for freedom and the European integration of Ukraine. These historical events caused the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and military aggression of the Russian Federation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine and, as a consequence, threatened the very foundations of the post-World War II international order on the whole European continent.

These tragic events were marked by thousands of victims and millions of displaced Ukrainian citizens. However, divisions in the values and political and cultural views in Ukraine caused the most painful wounds within Ukrainian society. Political elites in Ukraine and in other countries realize that the challenging process of Conflict Transformation will follow the anticipated process of Conflict Resolution in Ukraine. However, the process of Conflict Transformation cannot be regarded as a subject of political speculations but it requires considerable academic and scientific discussion.

This issue of the KMLPJ is one of the first contributions to this field of academic discourse. As the first Ukrainian interdisciplinary academic journal in the fields of law and political science, the KMLPJ aims at offering a platform for expert discussion on the most contemporary legal, political and other challenges related to Conflict Transformation in Ukrainian society.

The title of this issue is "Legal and Political Dimensions of Contemporary Conflicts in Europe." This choice is not accidental and embraces the whole plethora of challenges that questioned the existence of Ukraine as an independent and democratic European country before and after the Revolution of Dignity in 2013–2014. Thus, the current issue of the KMLPJ focuses on a wide array of academic and practical problems from a legal analysis of the annexation of Crimea from an international law perspective in articles by Dr. C. Marxsen and Prof. O. Merezhko to in depth analysis of the process of Peace Building and Conflict Transformation in Northern Ireland in the Dr. N. Jarman's contribution. The contribution by Prof. O. Zadorozhnii deals with the hybrid war phenomenon as a method of the Russian foreign policy propaganda. Prof. A. Meleshevych and Dr. T. Kuzio analyze the issue of Conflict Transformation in Ukraine from the political science perspective. Prof. T. Antsupova's column offers a profound study of restitution complaints in contemporary case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The issue is a product of fruitful cooperation between the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Ukrainian Association of European Studies, under the framework of

the “European Studies as a Tool of Conflict Transformation in Ukraine” Jean Monnet Program project. The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is one of Ukraine’s leading universities, which follows the highest Western academic standards and promotes interdisciplinary studies in Ukrainian teaching and research. This cooperation helped the Editorial Board to attract high quality contributions among international scholars and leading national experts, and to strengthen the interdisciplinary dimension of the KMLPJ. Finally, I would like to express special gratitude to Baker McKenzie, the sponsor which enabled the 2nd issue of KMLPJ.

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