



In the wake of intensive geopolitical upheavals and the resurgence of authoritarian regimes in post-soviet space, and especially during the ongoing war in Ukraine, Europe faces unprecedented flows of migration, reminding of forgotten times. Entire populations abandon their homes in search of safety, temporary or permanent refuge, and better futures for themselves and their children. Viewing the situation as a topic of paramount importance for research, especially for the social sciences and humanities, we devote a major part of this volume of *Deeds and Days* to it. By inviting colleagues from different disciplines (including history, sociology, political science, and cultural studies), we seek to unravel the mystery of inter-ethnic solidarity, openness, trust, and emotional support flourishing in Central and Eastern Europe today. This volume also aims to present the socio-cultural phenomenon of migration within the context of geopolitical realities and personal histories. We strive to understand the distinctive cultural and political experiences of the most recent wave of migrants and the balance between hospitality and security in the host country. Primarily, the investigations are performed regarding the broader regional context, then focusing on the specific case of Lithuania.

The idea for this volume was born in collaboration with colleagues from the VMU Lithuanian Emigration Institute and the Andrei Sakharov Research Center for Democratic Development. It is worth mentioning that this is not the first or exclusive effort to study the transformation of Lithuania from a state with high emigration rates into a new home for citizens of neighboring and more distant countries. The transformation was speeded up by the Russian invasion of Ukraine when Lithuania not only actively provided significant help to its neighbor but also opened its own homes to war refugees. Researchers from the Institute and the Center mentioned above promoted this research direction in various international conferences, arranged targeted events to discuss and share a common understanding of constantly changing issues for the practitioners of organized aid, and, finally, by undertaking authentic research exploring reality from different perspectives.

The monographic part of the issue starts with Petar Antanasov's article on globalization and migration, once again reminding us of the scope and the intensity of processes we witness. The author discusses migration as a global phenomenon, putting some emphasis on the Mediterranean region, describing the complexity of the process as well as its interdependence on both economic and geopolitical aspects. For the benefit of the present volume of *Deeds and Days*, this article helps to calibrate the discussion better, focusing on the global trends of migration and its implications on specific regions.

In her article, Jūratė Imbrasaitė displays a broader context of social change in Lithuania. The author puts a special emphasis on democracy and presents a palette of its specific concepts and groups of citizens who are related to it. The article is appropriately relevant in the geopolitical (witnessing democratic world fights for freedom) and national political context (the change in the forms of a democratic life taking place in our country). It is crucial for understanding in what kind of democratic environment the newly arrived immigrants will live.

The next set of articles (Dainius Genys' and Aušra Urbanavičiūtė's articles) invites us to turn our attention to a more specific issue, i.e. the policy of Lithuanian national minorities and the integration of war refugees into our society. Based on preliminary findings, the first paper attempts to explore the confrontation between the structural aspects and the agency of newcomers (in this case, Ukrainians) in Lithuanian society, as well as emerging problems and opportunities. Urbanavičiūtė's article continues with the investigation of the Lithuanian situation, focusing on how the members of the Lithuanian Seimas refer to Ukrainian refugees. She does it by semi-automatically analyzing the linguistic patterns that Lithuanian politicians use in the parliamentary sessions and draws conclusions about the overall approach.

For those who want to continue with the macro processes, we suggest moving to the last section of this volume, which contains two book reviews and an interview closely related to the topic of the monograph. The section starts with a review by sociologist Vylius Leonavičius. He discusses the latest book by the well-known Lithuanian sociologist Zenonas Norkus, which deals with an overview of the structural transformation of the Baltic States. The review presents the main topics developed in the book, inviting us to take a sociological perspective on the genesis of the assumptions that empowered the Baltic States to transition from countries of prevailing emigration to countries of prevailing immigration of inhabitants. In his review of Sanja Tepavcevic's book on global crises, resilience, and challenges related to migration, cultural anthropologist Rubin Zemon highlights the value of deep insights provided by the author for both lay readers and social scientists. The book deals with a broad topic of the impact of the collapses of the former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia on the migration trajectories of their population and their

resilience in consecutive global crises. Finally, in his interview, Dainius Babilas, the new director of the Department of National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, presents and discusses policy challenges and the most important tasks pending against the new administrators of the Department. The Department's desire to better understand the minority groups in Lithuania based on empirical research seems to be optimistic and promising.

The part of the volume devoted to free-topic articles by Halina Beresnevičiūtė, Ilona Strumickienė and Martynas Butkus is somewhat less related to the topic of the monograph; nevertheless, it goes well with the subject of the monograph. Strumickienė aims to present the contribution of Vytautas Landsbergis, the first chairman of the Supreme Council of the restored independent Lithuania, in shaping a favorable environment for diaspora engagement. This article discusses the first efforts to develop a diaspora policy to integrate Lithuanians living abroad into Lithuania's political, economic, and cultural life. Butkus' article provides a historical analysis, focusing on the interwar democratic tradition and the role of student organizations in civil society. It also contributes to clarifying social preconditions for a high level of student organization and public expectations for students. To sum up, both articles help us better understand the historical change in Lithuania and later attempts to re-incorporate the Lithuanian diaspora into re-establishing a free democratic society. Beresnevičiūtė explores the reception of nineteenth-century love stories between a goddess and a man, created in Polish Lithuanian romantic literature, in the contemporary Czech cultural press. Thus, the paper bridges three national cultures, as well as past and present.

The volume concludes with two texts that reveal the importance of the past for our present. The first text is an essay by historian Benjamin Nathans about Andrei Sakharov and his developments as a supporter and promoter of democracy. The author not only provides insights into the biographical details of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate but also identifies distinctive features of the current situation that arise from the past, primarily the lack of political, institutional and legislative control of the current government and its impunity. In her text, Neringa Gališanskytė reviews the annual conference to commemorate Leonidas Donskis, a philosopher and public intellectual. The event underscores the intricate relationship between memory, history, and identity, particularly in the context of unprocessed traumas and political manipulation. It also highlights the necessity of a nuanced understanding of historical narratives, attempts to move beyond binary interpretations and to embrace complexities represented by all possible shades of grey. Both papers reveal that narratives can shape national identities and influence current political climates, particularly in the face of aggression and postcolonial ambitions.

We hope the volume provides intellectual pleasure, deep insights, and possible impact for its readers.

Rūta Petrauskaitė,
Editor-in-Chief of *Deeds and Days*

Dainius Genys,
Co-editor of Volume 82