

EDITORIAL

We respectfully greet the reader on the occasion of the publication of the fourth issue of our scientific periodical, the Central European Papers (C.E.P.). Our journal is a joint project of the Silesian University in Opava (Czech Republic) and the János Kodolányi University of Applied Sciences in Székesfehérvár (Hungary). The main mission of Central European Papers is to strengthen the idea of Central European cooperation and to conduct researches into the history and present-day politics of this region. This research includes many fields of the social sciences – from history, law and demography to sociology and political science.

The First World War (1914-1918) was doubtless the most crucial event of the 20th century. This statement is especially true for the region of Central and Eastern Europe, which was reorganised radically owing to this war.. Some of the empires, which had dominated and influenced this region for centuries, vanished forever from the map (the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire). The traditional Tsarist Russian Empire, after the secession of a large number of its western territories was transformed into the Soviet Union. The multiethnic empires were succeeded by new nation states with most of them containing significant national minorities.

The First World War had a deep effect not only on the territorial structure of Central and Eastern Europe but also on its ways of social and political thinking. It may even be assumed that in the long run the mental changes caused by the „big war” exerted deeper influence on world history than the territorial changes themselves.

The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War provides a good occasion to contemplate about this tragedy of our civilisation, and also to re-think several important problems, too. The huge number of conferencies, exhibitions and publications about this war witness to this fact. The political, cultural and mental consequences of the „big war” are with us even today.

The present issue of Central European Papers would like to contribute to a better understanding of the legacy of the war. The majority of the articles written by scholars from the Czech Republic and Hungary are concerned with the various aspects of the First World War. Among the articles the reader can find a reprint publication dealing with the First World War. Its author is Emil Lederer. This writing was published for the first time during the war; it is one of the first publications about the sociology of this war. Most papers are new ones prepared especially for our journal. Some articles also touch on the problems of the peace-making process which also constitutes an organic part of the war issues. And the same is true for the long-term political, social and economic effects of the war. This effects includes the changes of post-war economic thought too.

We hope that this issue of Cenral European Papers will be useful not only for scholars but also for graduate and undergraduate students as well as for non-professional readers. The First World War was the war of our grand-grand fathers. Probably everybody has her or

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his family stories about these events.. But the horizons of family memories are relatively limited. Professional historians may help not only to mobilize family memories but also to place them into a wider political and cultural context.. The editors hope that the current issue of our journal will help in this process.

Editorial Board of C.E.P.