

EDITORIAL

We are pleased to present to you the first issue of *Central European Papers* in 2025, once again offering a diverse selection of topics that reflect both the contemporary and historical challenges of the Central European region. This issue features three academic articles that cover modern teaching practices, legal and historical reflections on post-war developments, and changing geopolitical narratives at the margins of Europe.

This thematic variety is fully in line with our long-term mission: to provide an interdisciplinary platform for a deeper understanding of the dynamic and complex space of Central Europe. Whether addressing innovations in education, the legal-historical phenomenon of retribution, or the global power narratives reshaping Europe's peripheries, each of the texts presented here aims to approach familiar issues from a new perspective.

The first article, authored by Pavlína Pellešová and Klára Václavíková, entitled *Creating a Business Plan for a Virtual Hotel as a Means of Modern Learning*, introduces a novel approach to teaching tourism-related subjects. The authors demonstrate how teamwork and project-based learning can be effectively employed in higher education, leading to the creation of a comprehensive virtual hotel business plan. The outcome is both an educational tool and a step towards applied, student-centered learning.

Offering a legal-historical perspective, Jaroslav Král's article *Post-war Retribution in the Czech Lands in Historical and Legal-Historical Literature: An Annotated Bibliography* provides an analytical overview of the literature dealing with the people's judiciary in post-World War II Czechoslovakia. As the author convincingly argues, the topic of retribution remains relevant even after nearly eight decades – raising questions not only for historians and legal scholars, but also for broader public reflection.

The third article, written by Tomasz Brańka, Łukasz Donaj, Jarosław Jańczak, and Marcin Wochelski, *Borders and Border Regions in a Changing Geopolitical Order: Territorial Narratives of Europe's Margins from an External Perspective*, explores how global powers – specifically the United States and the Russian Federation – seek to reshape the perception of Europe's margins through presidential discourse. Using Ukraine and Greenland as case studies, the article shows how both Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin employ narrative strategies to project geopolitical power, challenge existing sovereignties, and redefine borders from external perspectives.

We hope this issue will not only engage you through the quality of its contributions, but also through the way it connects timely questions with the deeper structural dynamics of Central Europe. We believe these articles will serve as inspiration for further research, interdisciplinary dialogue, and critical reflection on our shared past, present, and future.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and the editorial board for their valuable contributions, and to the Faculty of Public Policies in Opava and its academic staff for their continuous support and commitment to the development of this journal.

Editorial Team of C.E.P.