

editor-in-chief: Tamás Németh

FOUNDED IN 2020

Scientia et Securitas

*Security policy from
the perspective of the V₄ countries*

Editor of the Thematic Issue: MIKLÓS MARÓTH



AKADÉMIAI KIADÓ

SCIENTIA ET SECURITAS

2. évfolyam 4. szám – 2021. december

Security policy from the perspective of the V4 countries
(Biztonságpolitika a V4 országok szempontjából)

Vendégszerkesztő/Editor of the Thematic Issue: MARÓTH MIKLÓS

A BELÜGYI TUDOMÁNYOS TANÁCS ÉS A DOKTORANDUSZOK ORSZÁGOS SZÖVETSÉGE LAPJA
JOURNAL OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE ASSOCIATION
OF HUNGARIAN PHD AND DLA CANDIDATES

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AKADÉMIAI KIADÓ, BUDAPEST

Lectori salutem!

The present volume is dedicated to security policy. When we compiled the volume, security policy was taken in a broad sense, as usual today, unlike its previously adopted narrow meaning. This amounts to saying that the authors of the volume are also looking at issues that at first glance seem not to pertain to the concept of security policy. One such issue is culture, which apparently has little to do with the central theme of the volume. However, if we look around in our world today, we see that the main cause of one of the biggest problems within the European Union, the tensions between the founding Western and later joined Eastern states, lies in the diversity of their cultural backgrounds. Different traditions and customs, different political and historical experiences and, consequently, different interpretations of political concepts result in significant differences within the Union. We have known since Plato that the security of a political community (or a state) is most threatened by internal tensions resulting from different views and aspirations. This Platonic teaching is still valid in political life up to this day, even in the case of the European Union.

The studies in this volume discuss security policy issues from the perspective of the V4 countries, especially focusing on them. These four countries represent not only a cultural but also a geographical unit. Due to their geographical location, they are poor in certain natural

resources and rich in others. At the same time, due to their geographical location, they form a buffer zone between the developed western and the eastern (mostly orthodox) countries with unbalanced development. These circumstances have a major impact on their life in general, their economic performance and their future development potential in particular; in short: these circumstances define the place of the four countries within the European Union.

The volume seeks to contribute to a better understanding between the four V4 countries and the countries outside this region in Central Europe. The papers want to present this region and its peoples together with the driving forces and goals of their policies so that the European Union can design sooner or later a political strategy that unites the views and the aspirations of all European countries in a coherent system that does not seek to impose the views and goals of the “more developed” countries on “the undeveloped” newcomers.

Let readers find in the articles as much enjoyment and benefit as the lessons their authors found while writing them.

Miklós Maróth
Editor of the Thematic Issue

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