

FORWARD

This number of the Analytical Bulletin by the “Center for Culture and Civilization Studies” foundation (CCCS) presents the materials and proceedings of our Second International Conference – initially set to take place in September 2020 – dedicated to regional processes. The first conference focusing on the dynamics of regional security order – was held in 2017 and triggered the interest of researchers, analysts, and statesmen of various countries whose practice relates to security issues¹.

The 2020 conference did not take place due to understandable causes of the war and the pandemic. Nevertheless, even though we understand that the Second Karabakh War seriously affected the power structure of the region and undermined the already volatile regional stability, in strategic terms, it did not drastically change the objectives and motivations of the main actors involved, thus, after revisiting the already prepared contributions of the conference, we decided to publish them, believing that it will be appropriate and useful.

As in the case of the first volume, the conference was methodologically organized the following way: the CCCS researchers were assigned to analyze the regional policies of the United States, the Russian Federation, the European Union, China, Georgia, Turkey, Iran, and Armenia. The collective manuscript was then sent to experts from each of the mentioned countries for peer reviewing. Then, the researchers and diplomats from those countries were invited to participate in the conference and present their papers on the same issues.

Unfortunately, this working methodology was not possible to maintain in the scope of the 2022 conference “Armenia-Turkey Relations in the Context of Regional and Global Developments” due to the disruptions caused by the war and the pandemic. It was held online on March 28-29, though in no less vibrant and insightful discussions. The integrity of the methodology was also affected by the transformations in the politics of the selected countries. Just one example – the transfer of power in the United

¹ Analytical Bulletin, Regional and National Security Dynamics: Armenian-Turkish Relations, No.11, Yerevan, 2017.

States from Donald Trump to Joe Biden – has dramatically shifted the foreign policy of the White House. Due to this, the researchers and diplomats who had prepared their contributions based on the policies of Trump’s administration had to review and renew their work almost completely. This also affected the logic by which the researchers had been selected.

Nevertheless, we were able to successfully conclude this project thanks to the fruitful engagement of our team and new contributors. We should note that most of the contributions to this number are based on the System of Three Seas theory. It is one of the priorities of CCCS to further conceptualize and deepen the framework of the theory².

The team of CCCS extends its deep gratitude to our dedicated partner Eurasia Partnership Foundation and its entire staff led by Gevorg Ter-Gabrielyan. We are also grateful to our international partners. Without their dedication, it would have been impossible to successfully complete this important project.

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² See Analytical Bulletin, Three Seas System, No.9, Yerevan, 2016.