



Marcin Lasoń

PhD, DSc, Associate Professor, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University, Poland
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8008-3325>

Alex Issa

PhD, ESSEC Business School, Cergy, France
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5465-7265>

Terry Johanson

MMAS, MA, Massey University, New Zealand
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8724-6059>

The causes, course and possible consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war from the perspective of Poland, France, and New Zealand: Introduction

This issue of *Security: Theory and Practice* represents unique international cooperation among the academics of Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University, ESSEC Business School, and Massey University. Three editors Marcin Lasoń (editor in chief), Alex Issa (editor in France), and Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Terence Johanson (editor in New Zealand) gathered carefully selected authors to share their expertise and personal views on the Russian-Ukrainian war. The publication's concept created space for sharing their knowledge and opinions on the war from different perspectives:

1. an average state bordering with Ukraine and fully engaged in helping during the war;

2. a regional power with special ambitions and relations with Russia, North Africa, and the Middle East;
3. a small country playing the role of 'a good international citizen' and engaged in supporting Ukraine from the beginning.

The authors of the articles examined various theoretical approaches, ideologies, and nations' interests, foreign and security policies, economic and energy cooperation, leaders' perceptions, strategic-level security documents, etc., and shared their views on the most significant challenges of the war. National approaches of individual authors are crucial as they provide an opportunity to compare different perspectives of scientists from various backgrounds, therefore each editor was given a free hand to choose the project participants.

The overall framework of the publication focuses on the following issues:

1. the causes of the war (starting in 2014 and its next phase in 2022);
2. the course of the war (including various military aspects and states' attitudes);
3. the consequences of the war (particularly political, military, and economic, and the possible scenarios of the new international order, etc.).

Although all 14 authors focused on military, economic, social, and cultural issues, it is worth emphasising that the French perspective examined a matter crucial for this country: the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on Lebanon and Egypt. To showcase this, we decided to include both articles in the section devoted to French authors. Moreover, the structure of the issue reflects the idea of comparing the perspectives of the countries closest and furthest from the Russia-Ukraine frontline. Interestingly, the authors decided to show not only the governments' perspective but also the views from the public as presented by the press or ordinary people who decided to fight as volunteers on the Ukrainian side. Yet, as all the above points have demonstrated, this war is important for everyone for various reasons, from idealistic to very realistic ones.

We hope the readers of this issue will embark on a fascinating intellectual adventure resulting in reflections of paramount importance for a better understanding of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The publication is the outcome of the international research project no. DW/WDPR/2023/03/00005 founded by the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University.