



Editorial

State of the World, our Journal and EthnoGeoPolitics

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State of the world

As we have discussed and analysed via multiple contributions in our journal over the years—and as we do in some contributions in this 2024 volume—we continue to face endemic crises in the world, ranging from domestic and ritual violence to (repressions of) often violent protests, low-intensity conflicts and full-scale wars and their aftermaths. A typical example of endemic conflict is the one in and about Nagorno-Karabakh, which ostensibly ended in an “apparently definite Azeri victory” in late September 2023 (Ten Dam 2023: 10 (quote); see esp.).¹ As I have indicated in the Editorial of the preceding 2023 volume, the question remains whether manifestations of “public and private violence are truly on the wane globally, or can ever be” (Ibid 2023: 8).

Many a conflict certainly is ongoing, with no (immediate) end in sight, like the Russian-Ukrainian War. As I and Ab de Buck point out in our new opinion piece in this volume, our initial optimism that Ukraine’s “fierce Ukrainian resistance, helped by strong ... support from the West ... has stymied and even reversed the Russian invasion” (Ten Dam 2022: 9 (quote); Ten Dam & De Buck 2022: esp. 205-206) has dimmed considerably. Thus Russian (counter)offensives in 2023 and 2024 clawed



back some of Ukraine's territory it had occupied before in the early phase of the war—aided by the half-year delay in new US military aid.

We do remain confident that Ukraine will win the war and regain most or all of its territory currently occupied, especially with replenished ammunition and weaponry from its own armouries and those from abroad—unless a certain Mr. Trump regains the US Presidency and scuttles (much of) US and other foreign aid to Ukraine, as has happened to a large degree by the time this delayed 2024 volume has come out.

State of our journal and 'our' discipline of Ethnogeopolitics

Despite wars and other crises across the globe having affected or still affecting many members of our Editorial Board, we initially believed that we had finally “managed to partially overcome the structural backlog” in the production of volumes of our journal that had occurred over the years (Ten Dam 2022: 8-9 (incl. quote)).

However, the late outing of the 2024 volume and the immediately preceding volumes attest to the fact that the following factors are still in play or have returned with a vengeance: 1) few editorial-board members have time and opportunity to regularly contribute nowadays “often due to personal and security challenges”; 2) few editorial-board members have time and opportunity nowadays to regularly approach prospective authors to contribute to our journal, also “due to said personal and security challenges”; and 3. we face the “increasing difficulty to find and sustain a sufficient number of peer-reviewers for our main contributions” (who are also willing to publish their reviews as Critical Responses in our journal), mainly due to the ever “increasing workloads



among academics” and the unfairly low impact factor and consequent status of peer-reviews as academic publications (Ten Dam 2023: 11-15 (incl. quotes)).

Remarkably, these delaying factors have not prevented EthnoGeoPolitics (EGP)—here succinctly, preliminarily and contestably defined as the politics of human groups with ethnic, religious, ethno-religious and other cultural identity traits—from becoming a recognised composite, if (deliberately) fluid, concept for a new multidisciplinary field of studies for numerous scholars, students and practitioners across the world (see for more extensive EGP definitions Rezvani & Ten Dam 2020: 14; Rezvani 2019: esp. 30-31). Still, the name recognition and application of EGP as a ‘multidisciplinary discipline’ is spreading rather slowly beyond the confines of our own association, journal and networks (Ten Dam 2023: 15-18).

Be that as it may, the current 2024 volume is slimmer than usual, with fewer (lengthy and/or peer-reviewed) contributions by both new and regular contributors than usual, in an ultimate effort to overcome the persistent backlog in our publication cycle.² Even so, with the current ‘slimmed-down’ volume we have just managed to reduce the publication backlog from at least six months to around four months at best. So there is still some way to go.

Despite the above-mentioned challenges, this volume contains some significant, insightful contributions that should interest the reader and further the study of ethnogeopolitics as a phenomenon, concept and discipline (or a set of interrelated phenomena, concepts and disciplines)—including a number of peer-reviewed Main Articles, including the one in English and Arabic on the ‘Turkmen of Tuz



Khurmatu District' under Iraqi and Kurdish rule by our new regular contributor Sheth Jerjis, and the one on 'ethnocultural interaction in the middle reaches of the Syr Darya' by our new senior editor Shohista Hamroqulova (or transliterated as Shokhista Khamrokulova in English) and our chief editor Prof. Babak Rezvani. Moreover, the Russian-language contribution on 'Ethics in Social Sciences' by Babak Rezvani together with two of his colleagues at two major universities in Uzbekistan as co-authors, is relevant to EGP if only because this discipline frequently takes place in the social sciences and frequently applies social-scientific methodologies as well.³

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Endnotes

1. We had hoped to have "one or more contributions" analysing this "apparently definite Azeri victory in the Karabakh conflict" in this current volume (Ten Dam 2023: 10), in more depth and detail than my own brief discussion of it in the preceding volume (Ibid: 9-11). Yet continuing delays in receiving a/o (peer-)reviewing such contributions make their publication only possible in the 2025 or later volumes of our journal.
2. Thus in order to slim down and thereby speed up the publication of the 2024 volume of our journal, we have asked some of our prospective, new contributors—and some of our regular contributors, like Rodolfo Valentino and James Dorsey—for their



patience: their regular contributions, including planned or already submitted manuscripts, can appear once more in the 2025 and subsequent volumes of our journal.

3. Notably, Prof. Babak Rezvani, Prof. Akbar Utemuradov and Prof. Feruza Rashidova hold professorships that lie at least partially in the humanities rather than social sciences (see their bio summaries shown at the end of their contribution). Still, the given that they focus here on the challenges of conducting ethically correct research in the social sciences attest to their multidisciplinary backgrounds and expertise.

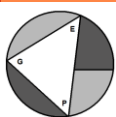
References—Bibliography

Rezvani, Babak, 'Understanding Ethnogeopolitics and its Developments' *Forum of EthnoGeoPolitics* Vol.7 No.1, Autumn 2019, pp.23-36.

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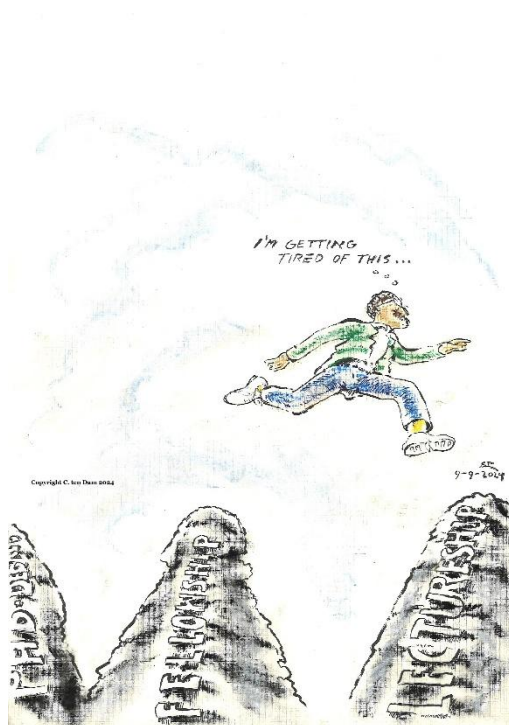
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_____ & Ab de Buck, 'How to help Ukraine defeat the Russian Invader and Aggressor (Opinion Column)' *Forum of EthnoGeoPolitics* Vol.10 Nos.1-2, Winter 2022, pp.205-219.



_____, 'State of the World and the Field—and Journal—of EthnoGeoPolitics (Editorial—Developments in the Field)' *Forum of EthnoGeoPolitics* Vol.11 Nos.1-2, Winter 2023, pp.8-23.

NB: do you have any comments on the Editorial? Please send these to info@ethnogeopolitics.org, or via contactform at www.ethnogeopolitics.org.



"Expert" cartoon by Caspar ten Dam; www.ctdamconsultancy.com