

Editorial

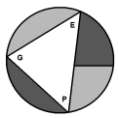
Observations on our World, Journal and EthnoGeoPolitics

Caspar ten Dam *with* Babak Rezvani

Our world: cause for alarm, dejection or still hope?

We have discussed and analysed via numerous contributions in our journal since its inception in 2013—and as we do in this 2025 volume—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 and consequences. Many a conflict is ongoing, with no (immediate) end in sight, like the Russian-Ukrainian War—though we remain confident that Ukraine will win the war and regain most or all of its territory currently occupied (see Ten Dam & De Buck 2022, 2024).

Another typical, horrific example of endemic conflict is the one in Gaza, about which our regular contributors Rodolfo Valentino and James Dorsey offer pertinent observations in this volume—respectively on the degree of genocidal violence perpetrated by Israel (and other involved warring actors), and the prospects of a(ny) ceasefire and U.S. president Donald Trump's so-called Gaza peace plan. As indicated in an earlier Editorial, the question remains whether manifestations of “public and private violence are truly on the wane globally, or can ever be” (Ten Dam 2023: 8).¹

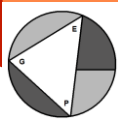


Ethnogeopolitics and our journal: challenges yet prospects

Though we initially believed that we would manage to at least “partially overcome the structural [half-year] backlog” in the production of volumes of our journal (Ten Dam 2022: 8-9 (incl. quote)), the late outing of this 2025 volume and preceding volumes attest to the fact that nowadays few editorial-board members have time and opportunity to: 1) regularly contribute themselves “due to personal and security challenges”; 2) regularly approach prospective authors to contribute to our journal, also due to said challenges; and 3. “find and sustain a sufficient number of peer-reviewers for our main contributions” given the ever “increasing workloads among academics” and low impact factor and status of peer-reviews as academic publications (Ten Dam 2023: 11-15).

Despite the above-mentioned challenges however, the current 2025 volume contains quite a few substantial, thought-provoking (peer-reviewed) contributions—including the one in English and Arabic by our regular contributor Sheth Jerjis on the history and current shortfalls of Turkmen mother-tongue education in Iraq, and the one by Christian Alexander Weutscheck on the costs of sanctions on Iran as the targeted country for the sender i.e. targeting countries (esp. the United States).

Crucially, these persistent challenges have not stopped a steadily increasing number of scholars, students and practitioners from recognising and applying our multidisciplinary field of EthnoGeoPolitics (EGP)—succinctly defined as the “politics of human groups with ethnic, religious, ethno-religious and other cultural identity traits” (Ten Dam 2024: 10 (quote); see orig. Rezvani 2019: esp. 30-31; Rezvani & Ten Dam 2020: 14). Nowadays, the field of EGP has evolved beyond the once narrow confines of our own association,



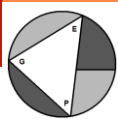
journal and networks (Ten Dam 2023:15-18). Many if not all the contributions in our journal are nowadays traceable, recognised and indexed in academic databases like Scopus, Researchgate and Academia.edu—particularly due to the efforts of our Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Babak Rezvani.² For that we can be grateful.

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Endnotes

1. It is high time that I revisit and reassess my rather optimistic assessments, supplied in a couple of major earlier contributions to this journal, on ‘structurally declining’ armed conflicts and other violence, both in frequency and severity, over the last decades, centuries and even millennia across the globe (Ten Dam 2015, 2017).
2. Because our journal publishes news-oriented pieces, commentaries and theory-development analyses in addition to formal, empirical (peer-reviewed) research articles, we are not currently indexed in the renowned academic database Scopus (www.scopus.com). Following a consultation with Scopus, we decided not to pursue full



indexing at this time because it would have required a loss of variety in our content; for one thing, we believe that shorter analytical articles are often more widely read and appreciated by our audience. However, we have implemented several of Scopus's recommendations. While the journal in its totality is not indexed, specific high-level research articles in it still qualify under Scopus-equivalent standards. Furthermore, most of our journal's articles can be found in the open access repository of Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Our journal is also indexed and archived by the Dutch Royal Library, and Google Scholar globally tracks our articles for inclusion in authors' h-index calculations.

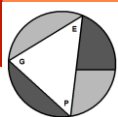
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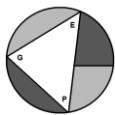
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NB: do you have any comments on the Editorial? Please send these to info@ethnogeopolitics.org, or via contactform at www.ethnogeopolitics.org.



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