

Introduction

Security as one of the fundamental existential needs of every human being, is the main basis for his functioning in everyday, social and state life. The need for security and stability seems to be a necessity from the moment of birth and decides about the further stages of development, affecting the whole life of the human individual. In addition to the psychological context and the undeniable role of security in human life, it is also the primary need of countries and international systems.

Issues related to broadly defined security have been present for a very long time and cause many discussions both among the scientific community and political bodies of each country. It is also an indispensable aspect of considerations undertaken among international organizations and other participants in international relations. The issue of international peace and security is one of the most frequently raised issues in the debates taking place in the international arena. The concept of international security occurs in many contexts and meanings, which causes even greater polemics over this topic. It is generally pointed out that security can be viewed negatively and positively. In a negative sense, international security means no threat, i.e. a passive state, while in a positive sense it is an active opposition to emerging threats, i.e. an active state. International security is not only the sum of the security of individual states, but also all mechanisms, conditions and international standards as well as goals and values common to the entire international system.

Issues related to contemporary problems and challenges of international security have become the keynote of the 3rd edition of National Scientific Conference “University Diplomacy Days, which was held on April 11–12, 2018. The event was organized by the Young Diplomats Club operating at the Institute of European Studies of the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Warsaw. The issues raised during the debates as well as long after their conclusion and the important conclusions that emerged from them led to the creation of a publication on international security in general.

The opening article written by Marta Miedzińska MA in the article *International security in the theoretical approach* takes up the issues related to the presentation of the theoretical aspect of the functioning of international security, emphasizing the concept of international security itself as well as its contemporary challenges and threats. The analysis of potential dangers arising from the planned reforms of Jean-Claude Juncker, as well as their impact on the internal and external security of the European Union was undertaken by Aleksandra Kuszykiewicz-Fedurek MA in the article *Contemporary threats of safety of the European Union in the context of planned reforms*. The issue concerning the role of the European Union in building anti-smoking policy in the Member States was presented by Karolina Wierzbicka MA in the article *Ensuring a high level of health in the context of health safety of the European Union the example of anti-smoking policy*. Patryk Bukowski also raised very important issues in the article *Balkan Peninsula as a geopolitical bridge for the energy security of the European Union*, where he draws attention to the role that the territory of the Balkan Peninsula plays or can play in ensuring the EU's energy security. Daniel Smaga MA as the subject of his article *Conflict in the Persian Gulf, the Arab Spring, and (in)security in the Middle East* indicates the conflict in the Middle East, in order to show the gravity of the situation and the involvement of many actors. Melanie Raczek MA and Natalia Matyba MA in the article *Polish regional representatives in Brussels* address equally important issues related to the formal and legal foundations of the functioning of representations, as well as their most important goals and tasks. In the article *Euroatlantic security cooperation during the presidency of Donald Trump*, Paweł Paszak MA attempts to examine and evaluate selected problems of this cooperation. The article *Norwegian arctic policy and its influence on security in the Arctic* written by Leszek Sadurski MA presents examples of Norway's activity in the Arctic and its impact on the creation of a security environment in the Arctic. Article titled *The operational powers of special services after September 11, 2001 against the background of selected tribunal judgments and courts. A comparative analysis of Poland and Great Britain* written by Cezary Gołędzionowski MA is an analysis of the challenges faced by judicial authorities in Poland and Great Britain regarding the security and functioning of the services responsible for its maintenance. Dorota Gawłowska MA and Jan Kowalczyk MA in the article *Ensuring urban space security in the acquis of specialized agencies of the United Nations* point to the significant challenge of ensuring the safety of local urban communities. The article crowning this publication written by Dominika Czapla MA titled *The role of local government administration in ensuring public security* analyzes the competences of individual local government units in maintaining public security and order.