

PREFACE

We are pleased to present the second issue of “Przegląd Politologiczny” at a particularly consequential moment for the study of politics. Recent years have exposed the fragility of many assumptions that until recently appeared firmly established about the functioning of the state, the resilience of liberal democracy, and the stability of the international order. Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, intensifying geopolitical rivalry, successive energy crises, profound societal transformations, and deepening political polarisation have together reshaped the political landscape, compelling scholars to revisit fundamental questions about the nature of contemporary political order. In such circumstances, the role of academic journals extends well beyond documenting political developments. Their foremost responsibility is to provide a forum for rigorous scholarly debate that illuminates both the underlying causes and the far-reaching consequences of these transformations.

It is therefore particularly fitting that this issue opens with Professor Francis Fukuyama’s essay, *Poland and Our Geopolitical Moment*. Few contemporary political thinkers have exerted a comparable influence on international debates about liberal democracy, state-building, institutional development, and the evolution of the global political order. Since the publication of *The End of History?* and, subsequently, *The End of History and the Last Man*, Professor Fukuyama has remained one of the defining voices in scholarly discussions about democracy’s prospects in the twenty-first century. A distinguishing feature of his intellectual contribution has been a remarkable willingness to reconsider his own arguments in light of changing political realities. His scholarship thus exemplifies not only intellectual coherence but also scholarly integrity: a sustained commitment to confronting empirical developments with analytical openness rather than defending previously established conclusions. It is precisely this capacity for critical self-reflection that has secured Professor Fukuyama’s enduring place among the most influential political scientists of our time.



For the Editorial Board of “Przegląd Politologiczny”, publishing Professor Fukuyama’s essay is a truly exceptional occasion. We regard it as both an expression of confidence in our journal and an important milestone in its ongoing international development. Its publication takes on added significance, as it follows shortly after Professor Fukuyama was awarded the highest academic distinction bestowed by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań – the degree of doctor honoris causa. The distinction honours a scholar whose work has, for more than three decades, profoundly shaped political science research worldwide and consistently inspired debates on democracy, statehood, civil society, governance, and the changing architecture of the international order. We are equally honoured to publish the text of the honorary doctorate diploma, which we consider both an important document in our University’s academic history and a tangible expression of the close intellectual ties linking the global political science community with the scholarly traditions of Poznań.

The remaining contributions in this issue address a diverse range of themes that, taken together, offer a coherent reflection on some of the most pressing challenges facing contemporary politics. They examine the normative foundations of democratic governance, the consequences of armed conflict for international security, the determinants of the foreign policies pursued by the states of Central Europe, the societal dimensions of public policies implemented under crisis conditions, and the political challenges associated with the energy transition and energy security. The volume also devotes significant attention to questions of human rights and to the complex interactions between law, culture, and politics in addressing sexual violence against women. Collectively, these contributions portray a political world of growing complexity, in which understanding contemporary political phenomena increasingly requires interdisciplinary perspectives, methodological pluralism, and theoretical sophistication.

We hope that the studies published in this issue will attract the attention not only of scholars in Poland but also of colleagues from academic institutions around the world, thereby fostering a broader international dialogue on the major political challenges of our time.

The volume we now present to our Readers will stimulate further research and encourage ongoing scholarly discussion of the changing trajectories of contemporary politics. At a time when geopolitical realities are evolving with unprecedented speed and intensity, political science must aspire to do more than merely describe political developments. Its enduring task is to provide

the conceptual frameworks and analytical tools necessary to understand an increasingly complex world. The contributions gathered in this issue will constitute a valuable addition to this continuing international conversation.

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Editorial Note

As noted above, a distinctive feature of this issue is the publication of the text of the honorary doctorate (doctor honoris causa) diploma awarded by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań to Professor Francis Fukuyama on 16 May 2025. The diploma is reproduced on the following page as a record of an event of exceptional significance for our University and for the Polish political science community. The text of the diploma has been made available to the Editorial Board of “Przegląd Politologiczny” through the courtesy of Adam Mickiewicz University Press and was originally published in: *Francis Fukuyama. Doctor Honoris Causa Universitatis Studiorum Mickiewiczianae Posnaniensis, Seria Doktorzy Honoris Causa nr 72*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Poznań 2025, s. 2.