

Editorial

2022-2023 Editorial Team

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“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach.”
Aldous Huxley

The 36th Volume of Slovo comes out in a time of great uncertainty. The region of our journal’s focus is still afflicted by the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine, continued and disheartening disputes in Nagorno-Karabakh, anti-LGBTQ+ laws and reforms, visible effects of climate change in Central Asia – and these are only a fraction of the issues that the region is currently facing. The present state of Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia requires the world to turn to its representatives and listen to its marginalised voices, proposing and implementing the vital work of decolonisation. It is the work that will shift the narrative from Russocentrism to the one where such hierarchical structures are no longer prerequisites for diplomacy and democracy. A major part in these processes is undoubtedly played by the study of history, which assists researchers in illuminating the legacies of the past in their realisations in the present.

Thus, on behalf of the Slovo team, I am proud to present our Spring Issue. Coincidentally, all original research papers that we are publishing focused on the importance of historical study. There are three articles that we are publishing in this issue:

Hans Gutbrod’s (Ilia State University) “Yerevan’s Cascade Memorial to Victims of Repression: Returning from Hilltop Marginalisation” provides an invaluable and picturesque analysis of the history of the victims of Soviet repression, engraved in the Cascade Memorial in Yerevan. The

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article describes the painful, yet widely unrecognised part of Armenian history, only commemorated by the handful of people, who arrived at the memorial on 14th June 2022. The article proposes solutions to this matter by addressing the possible actions that researchers, activists and governments could undertake in order to help the Cascade Memorial gain deserved attention and appreciation, where the victims' names would be respected and remembered for years to come.

The journal is equally proud to present our second original research article, "Dancing Polish Romanticism: Bronisława Niżyńska's Chopin Concerto and the Balet Polski", by Jordan Lian (University of Cambridge). Lian provides a crucial analysis of the position in which the Second Polish Republic found itself as a new nation in the post-imperial system, and the ways in which ballet assisted in challenging the narratives of cultural inequality and elevating a nation's status, despite the growing geopolitical dangers and realities of the rise of authoritarian regimes in Central Europe.

Finally, it is also our pleasure to present Gabriel Deschanel's (University College London) "French claims for compensation of property taken by Bulgaria 1944-1960. A foreign policy interpretation". Deschanel uses French diplomatic archives in order to assess the French interest in Bulgaria from the end of the Second World War to the dawn of the 1960s' *détente*, moving away from the dominating studies on Anglo-American relationships with Bulgaria during the period.

As part of our Issue, we are also excited to publish a book review by Megan Palmer (University of Nottingham), "Brody: A Galician Border City in the Long Nineteenth Century". Palmer provides a useful and informative summary of the study of a significant yet largely forgotten place: Brody, a city in what is currently part of western Ukraine. We are confident that the review will spark interest for all those who wish to dive deeper into the history of the late Habsburg Empire and focus on not just its iconic and widely known capitals, such as Vienna or Budapest, but also on the forgotten and equally crucial city of Brody.

We are equally thrilled to introduce Serhii Tereshchenko's (Columbia University) film review of "Bad Roads" (2020), directed by Natalka Vorozhbyt. The review analyses the brutal images represented in the film about the Russian war in and occupation of Donetsk, the largest city in Eastern Ukraine. With all the efforts of understanding the roots and implications of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, we hope that this review will assist our readers in finding another Ukrainian masterpiece which eloquently and truthfully represents the condition in which Eastern Ukraine has existed for the past nine years.

We are also excited to present a translation by Mirko Savkovic (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) of Dimitrije Tucović's speech, "Woman's Liberation". Savkovic's work presents the previously untranslated (into English) speech by Dimitrije Tucović, published in Radničke

novine ahead of the First Congress of the Social-Democrat Women in Belgrade on 12th of September 1910. The translation will serve as a fascinating insight for all researchers of the Balkan and specifically Serbian socialist movements' history at the beginning of the 20th century.

Our issue is beautifully finished by Marianna Jaśniak's (University of Warsaw) original poem, "March 12". The poem is poignant, sharp and concise, portraying the author's ordinary day which gets interrupted by one crucial and heartbreaking encounter. In order to not spoil the experience, I will give the readers the opportunity to read the poem without any further descriptions.

Our Spring Issue would not have become a reality if it was not for the amazing work done by the editorial team at Slovo. Since February, all of them have managed to undertake enormous tasks of picking up new roles, understanding the publishing process and working tirelessly back and forth with our fabulous anonymous peer-reviewers and authors. I would like to thank our Managing Editor, Maria Obrebska, for her continuous work and assistance in communicating with the team, authors and peer-reviewers, and ensuring the smooth and efficient work in Slovo. I would like to extend my gratitude to our General Editors, Nathan Alan-Lee, Lindsay Jamerson and Joshua Robinson who went above and beyond in their communication between peer-reviewers, authors and myself. I would like to thank our Book Editor, Giada Malugani and Film Editor, Haoyang Chen, for their work which allowed us to present you with engaging and highly informative reviews. I cannot thank enough our Copyeditor, Callie Andress and Typesetter, Kexin Cui for their amazing work that helped elevate our publication to the highest standard. I am incredibly grateful to our Online Editor, Phoebe Hardingham, who has activated our social media, advertised submissions and published the first couple of posts to the blog on our website (stay tuned for more announcements on that!)

It goes without saying how grateful our team is to our Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity Officer, Tereza Michalkova, who supplied us with vital ideas on how to increase accessibility of the journal and our Copyeditor, Callie, for assisting in the recordings of the articles. I am incredibly proud to share that every article, review, translation and poetry will be available to the readers in an audio version, uploaded as a podcast to Spotify, the link to which will be shared in the description of each of the pieces.

On behalf of our team, I would also like to extend my gratitude to our anonymous peer-reviewers who offered their invaluable time and effort in reviewing and providing suggestions to the editors and authors. We are also very grateful to Ian Caswell at UCL Press who has supported us from the beginning of the year and provided insight into the structure and operations of the journal. We would also like to thank Patricia Gabalova and the entire SSEES Communications Team for assisting us in organising and distributing information about our launch event on the 20th of June. Finally, our team is beyond grateful to all our authors for their

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passion, curiosity and determination in bringing their work to the highest standard. Our team is beyond excited to share this issue with you and we cannot wait to see which works we will get the chance to review and edit in the future.

Ekaterina Dudakova, Editor-in-Chief, University College London