

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The third decade of the 21st century is marked by a number of crises that are causing the democratic world to become labile, destabilize the functioning of state institutions and have a negative impact on the development of civil society. The COVID-19 pandemic or Russia's invasion of Ukraine are reshaping the international security environment, one consequence of which is a widespread degeneration of the sense of security. The scale, pace and quality of the changes taking place show that the early 21st century has seen more threats than opportunities and hope for the future.

In a reality shaped by such phenomena, the more emphasis should be placed on building public awareness of security, including theoretical and practical knowledge. Education plays a key role in this process, serving, among other things, to sensitize citizens to the essence of state security, taking into account its current conditions. In particular, it seems important to disseminate information about various types of threats and to formulate theoretical bases to explain their genesis, as well as to forecast trends in the development of these threats, which can make it possible to minimize them. As part of such education, it is also worthwhile to present the principles of emergency management, legal regulations and organizational and functional solutions in the sphere of security applied nationally and internationally, as well as the internal situation in other countries.

Since its inception, the Homeland Security Review (HSR) has sought to bring security issues to the public in a multifaceted way. The 27th issue of the journal, which is being handed over to you, contains a number of interesting publications whose authors have addressed various areas of security. Marek Świerczek analyzed the course of the 2020 protests in Belarus and formulated a hypothesis about the possible involvement of Russian special services

in triggering the post-election crisis in order to reduce the margin of political maneuvering for Alexander Lukashenko's regime. Jacek Jastrzębski and Kamil Mroczyka presented the conditions, standards and principles of cooperation between the Financial Supervision Authority and selected entities of the state security system. Rafał Wądołowski, meanwhile, discussed administrative regulations related to the organization of the system for protecting classified information in the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and presented the criminal provisions in force in these countries regarding crimes against the protection of classified information, along with their interpretation. The purpose of Alexander Gowin's article was to outline the phenomenon of social radicalization in Germany during the COVID-19 pandemic and to reconstruct the ways in which the new sociopolitical phenomenon was analytically recognized by the civilian counterintelligence services there. Mikhail Vidatsky, in turn, presented the history and current status of polygraph examinations in Russia, performed not only by the services as part of candidate recruitment and personnel evaluation, but also in the private sector.

In addition, you can read three reviews in this issue of HSR. Jan Kowalczyk's publication *Security of the Space of Modern Cities: the Example of Great Britain* was reviewed by Iwona Osłowska; Aleksandra Arkusz's study *Cooperation of the United States with the Soviet Union in 1943-1945 in the light of the materials of the American Military Mission in Moscow* was discussed by Mariusz Krzysztofiński, and the book *Forensic Psychiatry* by Piotr Gałęcki and Krzysztof Eichstaedt was analyzed by Robert Borkowski. Traditionally, excerpts from master's theses awarded in the competition of the Head of the Internal Security Agency have also found a place in our papers.

While encouraging you to read this issue, I would also like to thank the authors, reviewers and editorial team for the substantive and organizational efforts put into its preparation.

Editor-in-Chief
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