

**K**arabakh is a very important part of both the history and territory of Azerbaijan. The authors of the articles analyze the region from the point of view of historical sciences as well as political science and legal sciences. The first group, represented mainly by researchers from the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, shows the oldest traces that prove that Karabakh belongs to the country in question. It is very important for the identity of these lands and their state identification, not only in the past period but also today. He creates an argumentation based not on the current, and therefore changing, political situation, but on historical facts which, having a perfect character, have a much more stable and unambiguous character than the current reality. The authors also refer to much more recent facts related to the Soviet period in the history of the country in question in the context of Nagorno-Karabakh. The presented content is a kind of basis for understanding the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan (concerning Karabakh) - as independent states. The results of research relating to this area were presented by political scientists and lawyers representing the main Polish and Azerbaijani research centers - University of Warsaw, ADA University, Polish Academy of Sciences, University of Lodz, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, University of Silesia in Katowice and Military University of Technology. Special thanks are expressed by the Editors of the Journal to H.E. dr. Nargiz Gurbanowa Ambassador of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of Poland, the article of which is also part of this issue. From the perspective of their own scientific disciplines, the authors presented the first part of the contemporary conflict over Karabakh, from the 1990s, when, as a result of military actions, Armenians, thanks to their superiority in arms, resulting from the earlier policy of the USSR's central government, and then support by Russia, led to the unlawful loss of by the Azerbaijani authorities, de facto control over the region. The authors of the articles composing this issue also referred to the recent events of 2020, called the Second Karabakh War, as a result of which (after several decades of diplomatic activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, however, did not bring the expected effect, mainly due to the lack of actual actions from the most important actors of the international political scene), Azerbaijan regained effective control over most of its territory, so far occupied by the Armenians. The authors analyze the effects of the armistice agreement signed on the night of

November 9-10, 2020. They also refer to Turkey's relations with the European Union in the context of the conflict about Nagorno-Karabakh and to Iran's position in this regard.

The editorial board of the journal, bearing in mind the importance of the issues discussed in the issue - not only for Azerbaijan but also for the security of the South Caucasus, which is a region of strategic importance, mainly due to the rich deposits of energy resources found in the Republic of Azerbaijan and due to the crossing of communication routes from the North to South and East to West, provides readers, both scientists and other people interested in the Karabakh issues, this issue, which is a contribution to Polish and Azerbaijani research on the region in question, in order to interest the indicated issues and initiate further scientific research on Karabakh.

Paweł Stawarz