

FROM THE EDITOR OF THIS ISSUE

The present issue of our journal is devoted to the sociological analysis of armed conflicts – both international and domestic. In the history of political sociology the study of wars and other armed conflicts has a relatively brief history, as almost all studies in this field have been published after the second world war. In this respect Polish sociology played a pioneering role, with two studies on the sociology of war published during the first world war (Adam Krzyżanowski's and Mieczysław Szerer's), and an interesting program of the sociology of war proposed by Aleksander Hertz briefly before the outbreak of the second world war.

In the present issue we are honored by the contributions of prominent foreign scholars who in their papers analyze the key armed conflicts of the twenty-first century. The current publication comes at the period marked by two particularly dangerous conflicts: the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the new outbreak of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the oldest armed conflict in the contemporary world.

Our aim is to contribute to the understanding of the nature of such conflicts by a sociological analysis of their sources and of the way they are perceived by the public opinion in the countries involved. We are aware of dangers and difficulties resulting from an attempt to approach in a scientific manner current armed conflicts. The conflicts are associated with enormous social emotions and they are subjected to strong propaganda efforts undertaken by the parties to the conflict. It hinders an impartial analysis. A separate problem for independent researchers is the lack of verified sources of information and the need to rely on journalistic accounts. Thus certain documentary deficits in some of articles presented in this issue. It also happens that some researchers face legal restraints in writing about certain aspects of the armed conflicts. Nevertheless, bearing in mind such challenges, it is worth trying to describe these phenomena from a sociological perspective.

Such an approach cannot be value-free, but it is our hope that we have been able to address the disputed conflicts in a way as objective as it is possible.