

## EDITORIAL

We celebrate this year the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congress of Vienna. This congress, which put an end to the long and bloody period of the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) proved to be a crucial event in the history of modern diplomacy. The Congress in Vienna had a deep impact on the development of the infrastructure and general culture of diplomacy. It was at this congress that the new form of diplomatic communication was created. Throughout the “long 19<sup>th</sup> century” (1789–1914) the European great powers sought to decide important and sensitive questions in the form of multilateral meetings and negotiations.

As a result of this congress the European public got acquainted with a new notion – that of the “European Concert of Great Powers”. In this new framework of international negotiations the major members of this concert met in our town, too. In 1820 Opava hosted – apart from the Austrian Emperor – also the Russian Tsar and the son of the Prussian King (Crown Prince). Great Britain and France were represented here only by their ambassadors. The main topic of this “summit” was the crisis in Italia. This fact proves the complexity of the European political problems. But the congress of the great powers in Opava was not only an important political meeting, but it had very interesting cultural and social aspects as well.

The Silesian University in Opava commemorated these events by organizing an international conference which took place on 15–16 October 2015. The title of this conference was “Peace Congresses and Conferences in Modern Europe.” Among the participants of this very interesting event were scholars from all the so-called “Visegrad countries”. In the discussions of the conference the majority of our old and new partner institutions (Budapest, Košice, Kaposvár, Pécs, Trnava, Wrocław etc.) took part. The presentations covered different forms and aspects of international negotiations and summits from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The sixth issue of *Central European Papers* is to some extent extraordinary, because the majority of the papers are dedicated to the topic of international negotiations, treaties and post-conflict state-building. Most papers are naturally related to Central Europe. Several papers touch upon more general issues, too – e.g. the concept of state-building and the police reform in the Czech Republic. The problems of state-building and security sector reforms are generally connected with the problem of peace-building.

We hope that this issue of *Central European Papers* will be useful not only for scholars but also for graduate and undergraduate students as well as for non-professional readers. Problems of multilateral and bilateral international negotiations, their culture and technology are evergreen topics in the relevant literature. The issues of preventive diplomacy and peace-building are today – unfortunately – more current than some years ago. We hope this issue will present a modest contribution to this discourse, at least in the Central European context.

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