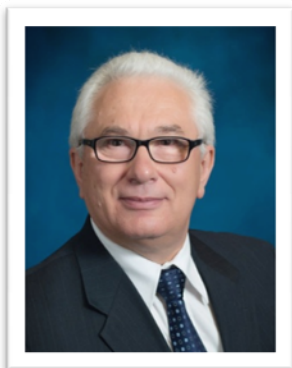


Editorial Notes

An Opportunity for Academic Research on Eurasia



With the Journal of Eastern European and Central Asian Research (JEECAR) accepted to the Elsevier-SCOPUS, this publication presents a fresh prospect for the advanced research activities related to the Eurasian continent. A current vibrant political situation in this part of the world, partially explain the “turbulences” taking place and affecting the economic development of countries representing the region. As of today, relatively little economic research has been performed on the dramatically changed situation in the region, and especially in the Central Asian area.

The Russian Federation continues to play a dominant political and economic role in the European continent. However, several Central and Eastern European countries are fighting to maintain somewhat more independent policies. Such countries as Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuanian, Georgia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia are not only on a geographic crossroad between Russia and Western Europe but are still considered as a critical part of Russian geopolitical interest. Nevertheless, even 28 years later, after the collapse of Soviet Union, former socialist countries' potential to avoid Russian political influence and economic dependence is still limited.

The recent American and European Union sanctions towards Russia created more political and economic uncertainties than provided answers. The everyday news brings new pieces of evidence that Russian politics slip towards the undemocratic policies similar to the Soviet Union era. Even Russian oligarchs of the Kremlin's inner circle, do not feel secure anymore. This situation created a new opening for the JEECAR to become the platform for the international researchers and experts who are specializing in studying the Eurasian region policies.

In addition to the political shifts, the region is going through the process of change in the economic development of the respected independent countries' banking systems, continuous privatization, taxation regulations, and unpredictable legislative modifications. Traditionally, the region demonstrates many visible signs of strong economic relations and dependency among the bordering countries. The established Eurasian Customs Union (Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan) has affected the international trade relations of country-members due to the American and European sanctions opposed on Russia. Individual countries' economic relations with Russia and nearby areas created not only the opportunities but also enormous challenges for foreign trade. Even more, the Russian invasion of Crimea and its military involvement in Donbas region of Ukraine impacted the political and economic relationship between Russian Federation and developed nations around the globe. This situation provided an opportunity for new analytical studies of the future regional economic implications based on the current situation.

To fulfill this gap, the Institute of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the Journal of Eastern European and Central Asian Research invites scholars to:

- Engage in education and training abroad through co-operation with appropriate universities of Eurasia
- Enhance the bilateral research co-operation with institutions in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- To engage in academic conferences related to Eastern European and Central Asian studies

To fulfill this gap in finding the realistic answers to the contemporary economic and political issues occurring in East Europe and Central Asia, the Institute IEECA and Journal JEECAR seek to advance in research covered under the themes of international affairs, regional politics, and country economics.

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