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## **Europe and Its Traditions – a New Outlook**

Dear Readers of “Przegląd Zachodni/Western Review”,

We place in your hands yet another special English-language issue of the journal of the Instytut Zachodni (Institute for Western Affairs). The articles that make up its contents are a selection from the yearly edition of the journal for 2017 done with a foreign reader in mind. As any selection, it is tinged with subjectivism, however, the guiding principle was to give a cross-section view of the subject matters taken up on the pages of this interdisciplinary quarterly. In the nearly seventy-five-year history of the journal, we can discern interconnections among problems of the past and present that pertain to Poland, Germany, Polish-German relations, and Europe with its processes of integration but also conflicts and tensions. Finally, there are global issues which cannot be overlooked by in-depth studies of contemporary political science, economics, as well as analyses of the social life and historiography of nations.

In the first part of the anthology we present articles that deal with issues related to Europe and the experiences of its countries, linked by themes of currently ongoing processes and new phenomena. The authors define the impact of these new developments on political directions, consider the social contexts and legal regulations, highlight the bearing of individual views, attitudes and memory on the transformations underway. Examples such as the changing situation of the family, the voice of the young voters, immigration, or the special form of identity which is memory, represent factors that determine the shape of everyday reality, at the same time revealing the need of coherence of policies and lawmaking on the one hand, and the subjective needs of individual persons and communities on the other.

The second part of the volume contains historical studies and analyses – perhaps more numerous than in the several previous yearly issues of “Western Review”. They were inspired, in the first place, by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, but also reflect the scholars’ interests in the role of women in society, culture and confessional communities. Like the papers on the historian of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and an émigré journalist, they can be treated as elements of a rich mosaic of the past, made up of pictures of the history of regions, “small homelands” or institutions and organizations. In this way the attention of readers engrossed in the vicissitudes of the past is again directed to the destinies of individuals or small communities of which history is woven.

*Natalia Jackowska*

