

ESJ Special Edition

Title:

Crisis, Conflict and Transformation in Europe and Its Neighbourhood: Political, Economic and Social Challenges in Times of War

Overview of Special Edition

Europe is facing a period of profound uncertainty shaped by war, geopolitical fragmentation, democratic stress, economic volatility, displacement, energy insecurity, and the reconfiguration of regional partnerships. The ongoing consequences of armed conflict in and around Europe are no longer limited to the battlefield; they are reshaping institutions, societies, economies, labour markets, public policies, education systems, security perceptions, and the everyday lives of citizens.

This Special Edition invites scholarly contributions that examine how crisis and conflict are transforming Europe and its broader neighbourhood. The edition is particularly interested in the political, economic, and social challenges generated by wartime conditions, including the effects of war on democratic governance, public administration, economic resilience, regional security, migration, human development, social cohesion, education, youth opportunities, civil society, media environments, and international cooperation.

The proposed theme is intentionally interdisciplinary. It welcomes research that connects European studies, political science, international relations, economics, public policy, sociology, education, law, governance, security studies, development studies, and related fields. Comparative, theoretical, empirical, policy-oriented, and case-based contributions are encouraged, especially those addressing Europe's interaction with its neighbourhood, including the Eastern Partnership region, the Black Sea region, the Balkans, the South Caucasus, and other areas affected by contemporary conflict dynamics.

By bringing together diverse academic perspectives, the Special Edition aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how Europe can respond to conflict-driven disruption while strengthening democratic resilience, social solidarity, economic stability, and long-term prospects for peace.

Aims and Scope

- ✓ To analyse the political, economic, and social consequences of war and conflict for Europe and its neighbourhood.
- ✓ To explore how wartime conditions influence democratic institutions, governance models, public policy, and regional cooperation.
- ✓ To assess the impact of conflict on economic security, energy systems, labour markets, migration, education, youth development, and social cohesion.
- ✓ To encourage comparative, empirical, theoretical, and policy-oriented research on resilience, transformation, and the future of peace in Europe and neighbouring regions.
- ✓ To create an academic platform for scholars from Europe, the Eastern Partnership region, the Balkans, the South Caucasus, and other neighbouring contexts to discuss shared challenges and policy responses.

Submissions:

Submit your paper as a Microsoft Word document to contact@ejournal.org

Guest Editor:

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Papers in the Following Academic Disciplines Are Welcome

- ✓ Political science and international relations
- ✓ European studies and regional studies
- ✓ Public policy, governance, and public administration
- ✓ Economics, development economics, and business resilience
- ✓ Security studies, peace studies, and conflict studies
- ✓ Sociology, social policy, and human development
- ✓ Migration, displacement, and diaspora studies
- ✓ Law, human rights, and democratic institutions
- ✓ Education, youth studies, and skills development
- ✓ Media, communication, disinformation, and civic participation
- ✓ Energy security, sustainability, and environmental policy
- ✓ Gender studies, inequality, and vulnerable groups in crisis contexts

Indicative Topics

- ✓ War, crisis, and the transformation of European governance
- ✓ Democratic resilience and institutional trust in times of war
- ✓ Europe's neighbourhood policy under geopolitical pressure
- ✓ The Eastern Partnership, the Black Sea region, and the South Caucasus in the context of war
- ✓ Security, defence, preparedness, and regional cooperation
- ✓ Economic shocks, inflation, trade disruptions, and fiscal pressures caused by conflict
- ✓ Energy security, critical infrastructure, and strategic autonomy
- ✓ Migration, displacement, refugee integration, and social protection
- ✓ Human development, inequality, and vulnerable groups in conflict-affected contexts
- ✓ Youth, education, employability, and civic participation during crisis
- ✓ Civil society, solidarity networks, and humanitarian response
- ✓ Public administration, crisis management, and policy coordination
- ✓ Disinformation, media resilience, and information security
- ✓ Business continuity, entrepreneurship, and private-sector adaptation in wartime
- ✓ Gendered impacts of war and crisis response policies
- ✓ Peacebuilding, reconciliation, and the future of European security architecture
- ✓ Comparative case studies from Europe and its neighbourhood

Time frame:

Submission Deadline	October 1, 2026
First decision Peer Review	November 1, 2026
Revisions Due	December 1, 2026
Final Decision Due	December 31, 2026
Publication Date	January 31, 2027

Language: English

Peer Review Procedure: Single-blind.

Publication Fee: The publication fee is 97 EUR per accepted paper.

Types of Manuscripts Accepted for Review:

- ✓ Original research articles
- ✓ Literature reviews and systematic reviews
- ✓ Comparative studies
- ✓ Policy analysis and policy reform papers
- ✓ Conceptual and theoretical papers
- ✓ Case studies
- ✓ Empirical studies using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods
- ✓ Work in progress and preliminary results, where relevant to the Special Edition theme