

Eurasia

Dear readers,
As we step into the Spring of 2025, we eagerly anticipate the fresh opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. With this sense of renewal, we are delighted to announce the theme of Change for the first edition of Gazeta in the 2025 cycle.

This theme feels particularly fitting as we prepare to welcome a new Sasha board, the possibility of a new co-editor-in-chief, and the start of an exciting new chapter for Gazeta. First off a warm welcome to the new board of Sasha who will no doubt continue to grow the organization and our shared interest in everything Eurasian studies. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our community, and we look forward to the initiatives and collaborations they will bring to life.

Change is rarely straightforward – it pushes us to re-think, rebuild, and sometimes move forward in unknown ways. As we assembled this edition, it became clear that the theme of change is not just an abstract idea but a lived experience for so many across Eurasia and beyond. We are excited to bring you three articles that explore this topic from different perspectives, both in the past and the present:

whether it's Nadiia Svitlychna's personal metamorphosis from Soviet patriot to dissident, Latvia's balancing act between integration and cultural preservation, or the state of Armenia's heritage sites in an increasingly volatile region, these stories collectively speak to the ever changing trends that define Eurasia today. We invite you to reflect on how change has shaped not only this region but also your own communities and lives. What can we learn from these stories about the courage it takes to adapt and move forward?

As we start the first edition of the 2025 cycle, we felt it was only right to balance our serious discussions with a little fun. The three articles we've featured tackle some important, but rather heavy issues, but we also wanted to include something to make you smile and unwind a bit. On the last pages of the magazine, you will find our imaginative horoscope that takes a lighthearted look at the political leaders and notable figures of the region, envisioning what 2025 might have in store for you and them alike. And for those who love a good mental workout, the crossword puzzle at the end offers a fun way to engage not only with the ideas and stories explored in this edition but also with general knowledge about the region itself.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of Gazeta for 2025, and we look forward to continuing our shared journey!

Oliver & Kristína
Editors-in-chief