

Editorial

Text – Sierra Salazar and Oliver Reschreiter

Now more than ever is it important to raise students' voices, and provide a platform made for and by them. It is imperative to continue to question the norm, enrich our knowledge of the world, and speak on behalf of what we believe in. Despite the challenges posed to do so, both overt and subtle, we students will continue to remain steadfast in our critical engagement. And while this student journal can only affect several individuals, several "small worlds", we hope these following stories will allow our readers a glimpse into the lives of those within Eurasia and Eastern Europe today.

This edition stands as a testament to our commitment to do just that, as seen through the theme of legacy, which has been approached by various student writers from a bottom-up perspective. We pose the question: how does the past live on today? Through rigorous

analysis and creative expression, our aim is to contribute a deeper understanding of the various pasts that shape the region today and pull back the curtain on the living meaning of "legacy".

Before summer begins, let us present to you that – in the words of Katalin Miklossy – the past is never truly dead. From Belgrade, Serbia, Gazeta Sasha's previous Editor in Chief, **Juho Pitkänen**, inquires just how past should be remembered and reconciled through his interviews discussing the 1999 NATO bombings of Yugoslavia, while Sasha's chair, **Daniel List**, writes from his journeys in Moldova. Through her interview with an activist under the pseudonym "Semyon", **Anna Koryukova** delves into the fight for memory of the politically repressed in Russia. **Lila Bednarska** reflects on the volatile nature of legacy through the repatriations of

Poles from the eastern borderlands, and **Giulia Panfilo** details the realities today of Nicolae Ceaușescu's brutal pro-natalist policies in Romania. And, as per tradition old and new of Gazeta Sasha, we conclude with a multi-author account of the ExPREES students' trip to Uzbekistan and a Shopska Salad recipe from the Balkans, written by **Jenni Kirkinen**.

Lastly, we extend our thanks to the interviewees, named and unnamed, who strive to uphold the legacy and memory of those beyond the dominant narratives and ideals. We thank those who persist in ensuring that their own stories are heard and preserved, regardless of the obstacles that may come their way. 📖

maia

