

• EDITORIÁL – EDITORIAL •



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This multilingual first edition of SPS in 2026 comprises seven articles in four sections: three contributions in the “Studies and Analysis” section, one article in the “Personalities” section, one text in the “Discussion” section, and, last but not least, two reviews.

The study section includes studies on various areas of political science, political theory/philosophy, international security studies, and political (parties’) history. The first study – written in English – falls within the broader field of constitutional theory. *Jaroslav Szymanek* seeks to explain why constitutions are treated like holy texts. His article dives into the “totemic” status of the constitution in modern democracies. When society secularized, the constitutional document effectively replaced traditional scripture, becoming a civic “Decalogue”. Over time, these documents were idealized as flawless, creating a high barrier for any amendments. Ultimately, because the constitution is so deeply fused with the state’s identity, it has become the ultimate symbol of democracy and the social contract. Therefore, for Szymanek, a constitution is a powerful political symbol; a “totemic” display cabinet of societal values that evokes national origins, projects a utopian ideal, and commands near-religious veneration.

The second, also written in English, contribution to this section falls within the field of international security studies. *Pavel Usov* argues that modern technology and new influence methods have transformed warfare, giving rise to Russian hybrid warfare. For him, this strategy is a multi-vector political, cultural, and informational assault designed to subvert a target state from within or install a loyal regime without resorting to open armed conflict. According to Usov, hybrid warfare is not a conventional military action; its primary goal is to achieve major geopolitical objectives while concealing the aggressor’s interference. It creates internal instability through election interference, sabotage, and engineered crises to avoid a direct military clash. Furthermore, it deploys conventional armed forces as an extreme step to seize territory. Finally, it expands territory, securing a military presence and destroying the target nation’s political power.

The final text in the Study and Analysis section, penned in Czech by *Miroslav Kučera*, traces the trajectory of the Slovak Party of the Democratic Left (Strana demokratickej ľavice - SĎĽ) from its initial formation in 1990 to its ultimate decline in 2004. Characterized by a fact-based approach and grounded in archival research of primary party documents, Kučera’s study illustrates how the SĎĽ evolved into a modern, European-style left-wing political entity. To chart this political journey, the author examines the party’s various congresses, its performance across multiple electoral cycles from 1990 to 2002, and its pivotal role as a coalition partner in the first government of Mikuláš Dzurinda (1998-2002) – an administration that fundamentally reshaped the nation by bringing an end to the Mečiar era in Slovakia. Kučera portrays the intricate nature of the internal ideological conflicts that originally fractured the Communist Party of Slovakia (KSS) and subsequently manifested within the ranks of the emerging SĎĽ.

The following section on “Personalities” is dedicated to Jozef Lysý, who died in early summer of 2024. In his contribution, written in Czech, *Pavel Hynčica* honors the philosopher and political scientist and highlights his massive, independent intellectual influence on the Slovak national-conservative left and his role as an academic mentor outside of formal politics.

The “Discussion” section contains a relatively long, highly structured article written in Slovak by *Michal Polák* that raises several issues in the debate over reforming the electoral system for the National Council of the Slovak Republic. Polák focuses on the tension between regional representation and proportionality. He analyzes how the current single-district proportional system limits regional representation and weakens voter-MP connections. Utilizing social choice theory and the Gallagher Index, the author demonstrates that Slovakia consistently produces above-average disproportionality and high levels of wasted votes, exacerbated by the five-percent parliamentary threshold. Polák proposes a mixed-member proportional reform model that combines regional districts with proportionality mechanisms. Ultimately, the author establishes measurable targets for disproportionality and offers a practical framework for evaluating future Slovak electoral reforms.

The issue is rounded off by two book reviews written in Czech. The first review is dedicated to a book that deals with current problems and themes in political science. *Jaroslav Litera* reviews *Petr Blaha*’s book *What’s New in Political Science* (Original Czech title: *Co je nového v politologii*), issued last year by Prague-based publishing house *Nová Beseda*. The second contribution in this section is a review by *Josef Smolík* of *Disinformation and Hate Speech from the Perspective of Philosophy, Law, and Security* (Original Czech title: *Dezinformace a hate speech z hlediska filozofie, práva a bezpečnosti*) written by *Tomáš Kobližek, Moniak Hanych, and Jakub Kalenský*, published in 2026 by *Academia* in Prague.