

In the previous edition, **World Tensions** offered our readers an interview with Miroslav Hroch, the Czech historian who became well-known for his studies on East European nationalities. We continue putting forward his ideas in this volume with the essay *The dilemma of the 90's: what to do about nationalism in post-communist countries?* Hroch provides important elements for our reflections on European unity.

In contrast to Western commentators who see a threat of 'destructive nationalism' in post-communist countries, Hroch argues against terminological and methodological misunderstandings of the term 'nationalism'. As his point of departure, he distinguishes between processes of national formation. For him, it is wrong to confuse the communities that emerged as 'state-nations', which at the end of the 18th century shared values and costumes and were united by the idea of equal citizens, with the non-dominant ethnic groups whose experiences led them to take the form of national movements. According to Hroch, the construction of European identity demands not only the inclusion of these post-communist nations as members but also Westerners overcoming the perception of Eastern communities as mere recipients of aid and bearer of destructive feelings.

Continuing the discussion of European nationalism, we publish Daniel Esparza's article that deals with the revival of the myth of the 'two Spains', whose origins go back to the Second Republic and the Spanish Civil War. Observing the events that occurred during Zapatero's first administration after the terrorist attacks on March 11th 2004, the author demonstrates how the current 'Left' and 'Right' political groups and media revitalize the symbolic roles they performed seventy years ago.

As regards nation-forming processes in Latin America, the tensions experienced by Venezuelans are being followed with great expectation. The December 2007 referendum in Venezuela is the central theme of James Petras' paper. For this professor, the campaign for constitutional reforms must be understood as part of a long process of social transformation. The electoral defeat of Hugo Chavez's supporters reveals the persistence of such structural problems as food scarcity and inflation. Petras believes that, if the Bo-

livarian government doesn't face these issues effectively, its political perspectives will narrow.

The idea of sovereignty is directly linked to national military capacity and to all that concerns the development of technologies for military use; this is one of the most delicate issues in international relations. But, what exactly are 'military technologies'? Reacting to prevailing notions, Waldimir Pirró e Longo discusses this key concept. Worried by the various types of restrictions imposed by the great powers on the trade and the commercialization of technologies, the Brazilian veteran strategist points out the importance of scientific policy to a country's security, defense and progress.

Commemorative ceremonies of important national dates are frequently moments of intense efforts in the construction of nationalist feeling and affirmation of national community values. In Brazil, the celebrations of 500 Years of Discovery were particularly significant. Laécio Ricardo de Aquino Rodrigues examines the messages of 'national unity' that the State, with huge support from intellectuals and the media, tried to communicate to Brazilians on this occasion.

We continue to put forward the studies developed by **Nationalities Watch**. In this edition, we present the work of Adjacy Farias and Mônica Martins on the World Bank's concept of poverty. With the help of documents and the reflections of policy analysis, the authors underline the impact of this multilateral agency's formulations and practices on academic perceptions and government policies. However, they go further: the **Nationalities Watch** research group argues that nations are the preferred children of 'internationality' and that World Bank intervention is full of significance in this regard. Which Latin American 'national project' has not taken World Bank conceptions on board, more or less emphatically, during these last decades?

The Editors