

2-2020

Editorial

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Recommended Citation

Mojzes, Paul B. and Admiraal, Beth (2020) "Editorial," *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*.
Vol. 40 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/vol40/iss1/2>

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EDITORIAL

The last European country governed under a communist political and socio-economic system transitioned into post-communism thirty years ago (this is an approximation as most of them transitioned a year or so earlier). This transition, for which we usually use the term Great Transformation, was, indeed, one of the major changes of the 20th century. Unlike the previous upheavals, such as the two world wars, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the emergence of Nazism and Fascism, this great change was mostly non-violent. Although much has been written about it during this thirty-year period, and we wish to mark this important anniversary with a special volume of new reflections.

We, the editors of *Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe*, asked our advisory editors, who live in many countries and who are experts in a great many scholarly fields, to reflect, each in their own way, on some aspect of the Great Transformation. We gave them no guidelines on how to describe or analyze it. Whether by personal recollections, impressions or scholarly analysis, whether to emphasize the early, late, or the entire period, whether to celebrate or to grieve—any and all reflections were and will be welcomed.

In this first issue of volume XL (40) as the editor-in-chief, Paul Mojzes wrote the lead article providing a succinct overview of the Great Transition. It is entitled “Religion in Eastern Europe after the Fall of Communism: From Euphoria to Anxiety.” Two of our advisory editors, Thomas Bremer and Vjekoslav Perica, responded quickly to the invitation and their contributions are in this issue. Additionally, in every issue this year, we plan to continue to publish both peer-reviewed articles as well as a variety of other reports. We are delighted that the work of many authors is being submitted and on a variety of topics. It is our goal to attract an even greater diversity of topics, time periods, and authors over the course of this and future volumes.

We welcome also the input of our readers who, thanks to the DigitalCommons platform, are downloading materials from all continents (except Antarctica). One of the benefits of the platform is not only the readers’ ability to search all forty volumes of *OPREE*, but that at the bottom of the opening *OPREE* site access a map of the world that provides the location and the title of recent downloads, plus the statistics of several past years. Authors may request from Alex Rolfe (arolfe@georgefox.edu), our web editor, monthly reports of all downloads of their articles. We encourage you to read <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree/>. It is free! We are thankful to George Fox University and its library for hosting *OPREE*.

We hope you, our readers, find these reflections on the 30-year anniversary of the Great Transformation to be both edifying and fulfilling.

Paul Mojzes, editor-in-chief

Beth Admiraal, co-editor