

A Note from the Publisher

Dear Reader,

With the publication of this Winter 2012 issue, I am very pleased to announce that the World Affairs Institute recently agreed to transfer ownership of *Demokratizatsiya* to IERES (the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies) at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. The journal will be guided there by Henry Hale, the institute's director and a current executive editor of *Demokratizatsiya*, with IERES assistant director Robert Ortung serving as managing editor. This development has been in the making for over a year, and all of us at World Affairs are confident that Henry, and his talented team at the Elliott School, will take the journal to new and exciting heights of excellence and relevance.

Demokratizatsiya was founded in 1990 (with the first issue appearing in 1992) by a small cadre of students at American University to examine the democratic reforms taking place at the time in the Soviet Union and, as the empire dissolved, the historical transformation that continues to this day in the union's successor states. In short order, after its founding, *Demokratizatsiya* became the go-to journal for those looking for intelligent, in-depth, current, and comprehensive insight into the region's political, security, and economic development. Over time, the journal's list of contributors, as well as its editorial board (listed on the inside front cover) has attracted a group of leading policy experts as well as a handful of towering Russian and other post-Soviet reformers, together representing a veritable Who's Who in the field.

For the past 18 years, *Demokratizatsiya* has been published by Heldref Publications and the World Affairs Institute. And, during the past two years, the journal has been fortunate to have Rachel Adams, who has been central to the journal's editorial and production functions, as its managing editor. We are indebted to her.

The recent political upheaval in cities across Russia suggests that Vladimir Putin's managed democracy may be fraying at the edges. We can thus be assured that Henry and Bob will have no shortage of material coming from Russia, or the region, for the foreseeable future. Eurasia is a complex, well-armed, and often dangerous land with vast human, technological, cultural, and natural resources that make it not merely an interesting part of the world, but one significant to its future prosperity and stability—or lack thereof.

There is no university group more able to monitor, chronicle, and assess these events than our friends at George Washington University. We wish them godspeed and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

JAMES S. DENTON

*Executive Director and Publisher
The World Affairs Institute*