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Editorial on MEST Journal 2022-2

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We published this issue of MEST Journal under completely different circumstances compared to previous issues. In January, the world battled the Omicron strain of the coronavirus and the pandemic, which continued to claim lives and destroy economies. In February, a real war broke out in Europe, the first after the wars in SFR Yugoslavia and the NATO bombing of FR Yugoslavia. Everyone forgot about the pandemic for a moment, but the virus is constantly mutating. Currently, the most common subvariants are BA4 and BA5. How many more species and subspecies will appear and what they will be like, no one knows. Many countries, protecting their economies, have estimated that they can lift the covid measures, and people circulate more, so the virus spreads more easily.

The war has been raging in Ukraine for 141 days, with great human casualties and the destruction of infrastructure facilities. The end of the war is not in sight, but the continuous growth of hate speech in the media and the statements of politicians is visible. Everyone is competing to have a more belligerent policy. It seems as if the politicians do not see where it's all going. Their willingness to lead their countries and those who elected them to poverty and shortages of fuel, energy, and food is astonishing. Soldiers have become just numbers of dead, wounded, and remaining potential who will fight, be wounded, or die. Politicians publicly announce a cold winter in Europe, but it seems that this has not yet resonated with the people, so the situation in most European countries is calm. People pay more attention to annual vacations than what awaits them. What will it be like when winter and short days come? We will see.

The pandemic has led to a decline in economic growth, printing huge amounts of money without cover, and inflation reaching record values in some developed countries. The war in Ukraine has become a good excuse for rising prices and falling living standards. Some underdeveloped countries are on the verge of bankruptcy, and mass rebellions have begun.

In recent decades, there have been wars worldwide, but none caused such consequences as the current one. Those currently making huge profits are arms manufacturers and sellers. This branch of the economy is again on the rise. Energy producers are also in a favorable position. Even with reduced production, profits are growing in absolute terms.

The free market and globalization proclaimed in the previous decades, by the decisions of the governments of developed countries, received numerous restrictions. Ramps to free trade have been set up. At the same time, no rational alternative is offered for the introduced restrictions. To an ordinary person, it may seem that some parts of the government are racing to put up bans while others have no solution to get out of the situation. The laws of economics seem to have ceased to apply. The experience that if you ban the free movement of goods, you will have less, and it will be more expensive is no longer valid either. Simply, there will be no goods. The law of the stronger comes to the fore again. Huge divisions are taking place in the world. A very turbulent time and a new regrouping are on the horizon.

Even in such conditions, the MEST Journal successfully worked, published, and collaborated with the authors. Life is going on. We need to find answers to new challenges. That is why we invite experts to analyze the current state of the economy and submit their works to us so we can present their ideas.



This edition is published online and in paper form. In this issue, we have published 22 works. Seven of them are original research articles. Eleven articles belong to review papers, three articles are scientific critiques, and one is a position paper.

One of the papers analyzes the legal aspects of surrogate motherhood. One presents an analysis of the liability of online platforms for the illegal uploading and hosting of protected works. There is also a paper that analyzes a method for parameter estimation of the photovoltaic model, but most are in economics and management.

We thank authors and reviewers who did their job well and conscientiously to preserve the quality of the MEST journal and the works we publish. We especially thank the authors from Ukraine and the Russian Federation, with whom we have been in frequent contact in the previous months, and we wish them to stay safe.

We invite you to publish your works in the MEST Journal. We will help you with that.

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