

IN THE YARD OF LITTLE RUSSIANS

by Predrag Ćeranić

Serious analytics dressed in literary attire

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Ćeranić's analytical texts are distinguished by their sophistication, precision and comprehensive approach. At a time when, due to the collapse of the entire post-Cold War order, relevant, crucial information and events are sorted out on tray, at short intervals, when life, political, and even geopolitical twists and turns become faster and often more dramatic than a drama – these are not only the desirable, but also the most necessary qualities of writing which seeks to be relevant, meaningful, and understandable to both general and professional readers. Those analysts who are able to interact with both types of readers with equal success are rare. And one of those rare beasts is precisely Predrag Ćeranić.

Combining a literary gift with professional expertise in the articles written for the All About Srpska portal, Ćeranić analyzes global topics effortlessly, at the same time linking them to, that is, illuminating their intertwinement with those concerning the former Yugoslavia, particularly the Republika Srpska and the Serbian ethnic space as a whole. In addition to providing valuable insights, many of his articles also provide exclusive information that has not previously appeared in both domestic and foreign media. His articles have greatly contributed to the rise of analytical texts published on the portal from a purely local or regional level to a globally relevant level. It is one thing to claim that we and our region are important in the context of seeing into global developments. However, it is quite a challenge to show it or prove it in practice as well, that is, in analytics. And an equally great challenge is to tackle domestic politically sensitive topics, what Ćeranić does without a backlash, observing them solely from the standpoint of state interest, with no compromise with truth or any embarrassing facts.

Another quality that distinguishes Ćeranić's analysis of the political and security aspects of today's turbulent age is that he does not avoid identifying and often naming behind-the-scenes actors whose impact is enormous. In other words, although a highly skilled, trained, and experienced war veteran, Ćeranić has stepped out of standard academic templates and secure textbook settings, without worrying if it is going to be perceived as "conspiracy theories" or not. Simply, the actions and influence exerted by non-institutional, unelected, informal actors and centers of power on political and social everyday life in the world and in our country are never missed by his expert analytical eye.

However, it is worth repeating all of the above, as those who have not had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with his texts will see that they are packaged in the format adapted to the reader himself/herself. New knowledge and insights are much easier to acquire if presented in an engaging way. This is a skill that only a few have mastered, among whom the author of the texts collected in this book holds a prominent place, which is not only an analytical diary of the most important events in the world and this region over the past two years, but also a real small geopolitical and security textbook, a compass for understanding the current events, tendencies and threats facing the world, including the Republika Srpska and the entire Serbian ethnic space.