Dear Reader,

We are delighted to present to you the latest issue of the International Journal of Conflict and Violence.

In its focus section the issue is engaged with sharpening our understanding of what characterizes extremely violent societies. The assembled contributions on mass atrocities in several national contexts exemplify that extremely violent societies are by no means to be seen as pure results of state actors’ repression but find their roots in a complex interplay of individual and group roles and their demands, often embedded in long-term conflicts in the context of civil wars and ethnic conflicts. Our sincere thanks are given to Susanne Karstedt who has taken the challenge to collect different insights into this fairly new understanding of mass violence and genocide that was firstly introduced by Christian Gerlach.

The journals open section this time opens with an article by Fatih Uenal who takes a deeper look into the nature and origin of islamophobic conspiracy stereotypes. Following, Friederike Sadowski and Gerd Bohner investigate prejudices toward Americans and Europeans in Egypt. The issue closes with a gender-orientated analysis of state support for crime victims in Switzerland by Anne Kersten and Monika Budowski.

Enjoy reading!

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