

BOOK REVIEW

Vasile Pușcaș, *International/Transnational Relations*,
International University Institute for European Studies (I.U.I.E.S.),
Gorizia-Trieste, 2009, 198 pages, ISBN: 978-88-89825-25-9

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In the late 2009, an interesting volume, entitled *International/Transnational Relations*, was published under the auspices of the prestigious International University Institute for European Studies from Gorizia/Trieste (Italy). The author is the well-known Professor Vasile Pușcaș, from the University of Cluj-Napoca who, in the early (1990s) introduced the study of European Integration and International Relations at Babeș-Bolyai University for the first time in our country.

Published in English, as the author himself states in the “Introduction”, the volume addresses mainly the academic field – undergraduate students, MA students, PhD candidates, professors, and nevertheless, all who are interested in the study of International Relations (politicians, mass-media and administration representatives). Considering these circumstances, the printing of this scholarly work is all the more praised as the scientific research in our country has evolved in most of the sub-fields of International Relations, while starting to harmonize with the main European trends.

The reader is familiarized with the history of International Relations as the author defines and explains the paradigms of International Relations, the contemporary international system, diplomacy and negotiations, the national interest and national security, interdependence, globalization, international communication, international management and crisis resolution, international economics, transnational relations (having in mind that non-state actors have assumed a very important role in international politics), the process and analysis of foreign policy, the emergence of the new international system in the third

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millennium, international law and international organizations. All these concepts are developed throughout almost 200 pages, divided into 15 distinct chapters.

With a special focus on the academic field as the main target group, Professor Vasile Pușcaș allows significant space to the statute of the International Relations discipline, to the methods of research and analysis, to the historiography and paradigms of international relations, to the methods of conduct in foreign policy and so forth. Also, the author provides a vast specialized bibliography (which can be found at the end of each chapter and also at the end of the volume) and a specialized glossary presenting the specific terms of the International Relations language.

Emphasising the participation and role of non-state actors in international politics at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century – a less documented aspect in the specialized literature of International Relations – the author, from the very beginning of his undertaking, highlights the fact that this is far from defining the depreciation of the state actors' contribution. On the contrary, Professor Vasile Pușcaș notices a reevaluation of their conduct oriented towards reconsidering the westfalian attributes of modern states. This statement contradicts the post-modern hypotheses which support the decrease of the role of the state as actor in international relations.

Both solemn and attractive, the book by Professor Pușcaș has already become a point of reference and fully deserves the greatest delight for a book, namely to be more and more read, translated and re-edited. The division of the chapters into sub-chapters increases the clarity of ideas and the scholarly drive is completed by an exceptional graphic design. The final appendices serve the purpose of working tools and information sources. Last but not least, the IUIES (International University Institute for European Studies, Gorizia-Trieste) President, Professor Alberto Gasparini, noticed the pragmatism of the approach taken by Professor Pușcaș in examining and using the concepts specific to the International Relations field, benefiting equally from his position as an academic and from his political and diplomatic expertise.

We salute the option of the editors to publish in Western Europe a university textbook, authored by a professor from the University of Cluj-Napoca. It is an exquisite volume which, by means of the language used, addresses both scholars and general public interested in the study of International Relations, in other words all those interested in understanding what happens to us everyday, as citizens, community, country or globalised world.