

Dan Dungaciu (coordinator)

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
THEORIES, DOCTRINES, INSTITUTIONS**

The Publishing House of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion. I. C. Brătianu”, Bucharest, 2015, 499 p.

ANA-MARIA IANCU*

The Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion. I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy published, in the autumn of 2015, under the coordination of its managing director, Professor Dan Dungaciu, PhD, who is also the head of the Department of International Relations of the Institute, an essential book: the first volume of *Enciclopedia Relațiilor Internaționale — Teorii, doctrine, instituții* [*The Encyclopedia of International Relations. Theories, Doctrines, Institutions*]. This seminal work is the result of a remarkable collective effort of the researchers of the Institute and of specialists in the field, who are not affiliated with the Institute, and addresses important terms from both the theory and practice of international relations. Classical theories, security doctrines, relevant events, international conferences, institutions, regional and global organizations from the past and the present, are all subject to profound and yet concise scrutiny, done in an accessible language, that makes the book interesting not only for the specialists, but also, or better put, particularly, for the students, the journalists, the political analysts, the politicians and for all those who are looking for an answer to a certain question or who just want to have a good scientific read about the world they are living in.

Besides the wide and commendable scope of this *Encyclopedia*, one cannot help but admit, even from the first pages, that it represents pioneering work, not only because it is the first book published on this subject in Romania, but especially because it does not represent just a plain translation or imitation of similar encyclopedia from the USA or from West European countries. The main particularity of the book is, in fact, that it puts into light concepts and developments specific to Eastern Europe (like *Glasnost*, *Perestroika*, *Comecom*, *Silovik*, *The Black Sea Synergy*, *The Sovietization* etc.) and more precisely, even specific to the Romanian and Moldavian space (*Romanian Geopolitics*, *The Snagov Pact*, *Soviet Moldovianism*, *European Moldovianism* etc.), ignored by Western similar

* Scientific Researcher, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu”, Romanian Academy, Bucharest; anamar_radu@yahoo.fr.
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works. This represents a very useful element of novelty, particularly for those who want to understand correctly these concepts, which are often used, intentionally or not, erroneously in the public space. Until now, there is only one partially comparable attempt to combine classical theories and doctrines in the field of international relations with local realities – the translation of Thomas Parish's *Encyclopedia of the Cold War*, Univers Enciclopedic, Bucharest, 2002, which was published in Romanian with the addition of important articles written by the Academician Florin Constantiniu.

Another innovative feature of the book is the special attention granted to the growing role of the religious factor in nowadays world, as manifested by the introduction of concepts like *Religious*

Fundamentalism, *The Geopolitics of Orthodoxy* or *Autocephaly* – an intriguing subject for the student of international relations – which proves very useful to the understanding of the relationship between the churches and the states in Orthodox space. A very interesting, old and ambiguous concept – that of *The Third Rome* – is not forgotten by the authors, who, very appropriately, include it in the subject *Russian Geopolitics*.

This concept, which helps explaining historical turning points in the relationship between the Russian state and church, is also relevant for the field of international relations. It can be seen “in action” in the 1940's, after the attack on the Soviet Union by the German army, and especially after 1943, when Stalin allotted an important role to the Russian Orthodox Church in the implementation of his foreign, imperialist, politics. Nowadays, embraced at a theoretical level by the tenants of Eurasianism, it can also be seen “in action” in the mere existence and actions of the Metropolitan Bishopry of Chişinău and the Entire Moldova.

The academic interest and openness of the researchers of The Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion. I. C. Brătianu” for the social, political and geopolitical manifestations of the religious phenomenon – as shown by the concepts exposed in this encyclopedia – is not new, and has recently received an institutional confirmation, through the creation, inside the Institute, of the *Laboratory for the Sociology and the Geopolitics of Religion*.

An essential read for a better understanding of the realm of international relations, *The Encyclopedia of International Relations. Theories, Doctrines, Institutions* is part of a vaster project, endorsed by the authors, who promises to offer the readers in 2016 a second volume of the *Encyclopedia*, entitled *State, Society, Economy*, and an *Encyclopedia of Diplomacy*, bound for 2017.

Cristian-Ion Popa (coordinator)

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FUNDAMENTAL WRITINGS
OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.
THE CONTEMPORARIES: 1971-1989**

The Publishing House of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion. I. C. Brătianu", Bucharest, 2015, 544 p.

LUCIAN-ȘTEFAN DUMITRESCU*

It has always been quite too difficult to review an encyclopedia irrespective of its particular content. Things tend to be even more difficult when it comes to reviewing an encyclopedia of political philosophy, due to its huge amount of ideas. Therefore, this text is not going to be a classic review. On the one hand, it signals the publishing of the fourth volume of *Enciclopedia operelor fundamentale ale filosofiei politice, Vol. IV, Contemporanii 1971-1989* [*Encyclopedia of Fundamental Writings of Political Philosophy. The Founders: 1971-1989*], and on the other hand, it seeks to offer a general outlook of this important academic endeavour.

In order to capture the general outlook of the *Encyclopedia of Fundamental Writings of Political Philosophy*, one needs to know if this intellectual effort has a guiding thread. According to Cristian-Ion Popa, the coordinator of this valuable academic endeavor, there is a guiding thread here, an idealistic one. In other words, the present volume has capitalized on the difference between political science and political philosophy. Considering that political science is inclined to explore and build theories about the root causes of different political phenomena, the text under review has given primacy to the normative penchant of political philosophy. The reason that underpins this perspective, which the reader will discover from the very beginning, is delivered by John Rawls who points out in his well-known *Theory of Justice* that both theories and institutions should be rejected as long as they are not true, and, at the same time, as long as they are not in line with justice, which is the main virtue of any institutional framework. Undoubtedly, John Rawls is an important voice in the academic field of political philosophy, arguably the most important one in the 1970s and the 1980s. Therefore, there is hardly any surprise that John Rawls' perspective represents, to a certain extent, the hegemonic perspective of this volume, if one can really isolate such a perspective. But the preeminence of the question of justice with its emphasis on natural and political rights should be explored from a larger perspective. In the '60s, the dominant paradigm in the realm of international relations was the denuclearization paradigm. Its successor was the human rights paradigm, with the signing of the Helsinki

* Scientific Researcher PhD, Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu", Bucharest; postdoctoral researcher at the "Carol I" National Defense University; dulust@gmail.com.

Accords in 1975 as its political climax. The human rights paradigm also dominated the '80s, being followed by the paradigm of minority rights that emerged in the early '90s. Besides John Rawls and other prominent representatives of the British-American culture, such as Robert Nozick or James M. Buchanan, the volume makes justice also to postmodern and deconstructive perspectives which are offered a large space considering the latter contribution to the meaning of good society, the underlying topic of this book. Moreover, considering that in the early '70s the shift from *fordist capitalism* to *postfordist capitalism* occurred, the volume also includes entries on capitalism, such as Immanuel Wallerstein, Daniel Bell and Albert O. Hirschman. Somehow surprisingly, there is no entry on Milton Friedman's *Free to Choose. A Personal Statement*, considering that the Washington Consensus and its global consequences occurred in the early '80s.

The forth volume of *Encyclopedia of Fundamental Writings of Political Philosophy* includes forty valuable contributions that draw on two major philosophical lines of inquiry, namely the *British-American one* and the *continental-European one*.

Each contribution follows what seems to be a predetermined pattern of analysis which brings to the fore a short biographical and general intellectual description of a certain author, followed by an *in extenso* review that ends with a critical perspective on a specific writing. The criterion used to discriminate the abovementioned forty contributions from other ones has been mainly the intellectual echoes of a specific writing. Obviously, a chronological criterion has also been used. In other words, the entries of the present encyclopedia have been selected from the most important books of political philosophy published between 1971 and 1989.

Overall, the volume is well balanced despite its evident liberal penchant. The trouble with normative perspectives is that they tend to conceal different power hierarchies. Unfortunately, the realist perspectives, which have claimed to do a better job when it comes to unearthing these hierarchies, have proved themselves to be also misleading. On a personal note, I would have appreciated more entries on the question of power, mainly from the symbolic violence perspective. Also on a personal note, a separate preface could have been helpful in describing the structural transformations that took place in the '70s and the '80s in the realm of world politics. Such an introduction would have presented, at least to a certain extent, the political determinism of some normative philosophies.

Considering its wealth of information, the present volume could be a useful guide for experienced academics but also for fresh graduates from faculties of philosophy, political sciences, sociology, history and international relations. The 4th volume of *Encyclopedia of Fundamental Writings of Political Philosophy. The Contemporaries: 1971-1989* is undoubtedly a valuable academic contribution that has brought together researchers working in different institutes of the Romanian Academy. Although this volume is the result of a joint institutional effort, the main authors are involved with the Political Sciences department of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations "Ion I. C. Brătianu" of the Romanian Academy. Here are the authors: Alexandru Boboc, Nico Carpentier, Ion Goian, Ana-Maria Iancu, Viorella Manolache, Florin Müller, Constantin Nica, Dorin Palanghiuc, Cristian Pantelimon, Nicolae Perpelea, Cristian-Ion Popa, Bogdan-Mihai Popescu, Lorena Valeria Stuparu, Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, Gabriela Tănăsescu, Enache Tușa.