

## REVIEW OF REVIEWS

### *Revista de Științe Politice și Relații Internaționale*

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“Revista de Științe Politice și Relații Internaționale” is a quarterly academic journal and a constant presence on the Romanian scientific scene since 2004. It is published by the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations “Ion I. C. Brătianu” of the Romanian Academy. The journal covers significant studies and articles in the field of political science, international relations, political sociology, political history and other complementary fields. It promotes interdisciplinary approaches, comparative analyses, and innovative research in fields specific to the profile of the journal (<https://journalsrpri.wixsite.com/journal>). The presentations of the articles from this issue, as shown below, give us an insight into the well-written academic journal. No.1/2020 was chosen for presentation not only because it is the first issue of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century but also because it manages to bring together a large spectrum of articles and approaches subjects from politics and diplomacy (diplomatic battle of Great Romania), and from political culture (the personality of Carmen Sylva), all the way to international relations (artificial islands in the South China Sea, and economics – cryptocurrency) and security studies (attitudinal cluster analysis), all of the topics awakening our curiosity regarding the authors’ points of view on their chosen subject.



In no.1/2020 issue of “Revista de Științe Politice și Relații Internaționale”, Dimitrie Gusti is commemorated for his 140<sup>th</sup> birth-anniversary by proving the overwhelming vitality of his interrogations and diagnoses. Emphasizing the importance of Gusti’s 1930 discourse entitled “The Question of the Federation of the European States” (Gusti, 1930), Dan Dungaciu captures the fascinating idea of a federal Europe as a challenge, an idea already present in the Coudenhove-Kalergi pro-European plan and in the A. Briand Memorandum. The conclusions are that the correlation between unity and welfare, as well as between political organization and political independence are closely related to the “primacy of civilization”. Such ideas also involve the creation of a “conscious solidarity” and of the “European patriotism” ensuring a “psychological security of the European”. An interesting study depicts the diplomatic obstacles that Ion I. C. Brătianu encountered during the negotiations of the Peace Treaty with Austria

during the Paris Peace Conference. The diplomatic discourse of Brătianu had the full support of reality. Indeed, Romania accomplished the equality of political and religious rights and freedoms for all citizens regardless of ethnicity and religious beliefs. Romania was willing to guarantee and respect all the rules, rights and freedoms highlighted by the member states of the League of Nations. Professor S. Neagoe shows that history taught us how difficult is the role of the State engaged in constituting a union and how the protection of minorities was rather a factor of instability. The stakes of the Conference of the Allies were to set a foundation for the brotherhood among people as well as for peaceful development. Count Saint-Aulaire praised the great Romanian statesman (Ion I. C. Brătianu) considered even greater than the three great ones – Wilson, Lloyd George, Clemenceau: “in small countries, great men”.

A remarkable survey research is presented regarding human rights vs. security with the main focus on raising awareness, understanding and developing a culture of security, much needed for

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the citizens. The authors analyse the tension between rights and security in the public opinion, as well as between “security culture” and “security inculture”. In terms of beliefs and perception, individualism generates specific attitudes in relation to the State which are, in general, suspicious of the limitations imposed by it, even for security reasons. At one extreme, there is a willingness to limit the rights of the offenders of public order and safety and, at the other, there are the ones who consider they “have nothing to hide” and support measures that for others are unacceptable (such as the surveillance of phones). Remarkable is the heterogeneity of attitudes in what concerns this opposition rights-safety/security.

Queen Elizabeth’s un-conservatory creative spirit which metamorphosed into the energy that flowed through the veins of the great Carmen Sylva is presented in a unique manner by Viorella Manolache. Carmen Sylva, who knew Ivar Hallström, Dzislaw Lubicz or August Bungert, was especially interested in cultivating the relationship with the “young genius”, George Enescu. Cultural mecenate created a beneficial trend within Romanian culture, emphasizing the echoes of the cultural resources initiated by admiration and capitalization of the spiritual and soul engaging inspiration brought about by Romanian motifs and themes. For Enescu, the Queen, as a writer, becomes the prototype of the creator, continuing in the higher cultural register with the admiration she had for the great poet Vasile Alecsandri, within “a continued cultural matrix” of affect, admiration and vocation, a fulfilment of cultural inspiration, expectations and an open “Romanian cultural destiny in the world”.

An analysis of the possible implications of the construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea and a digital research on cryptocurrency are presented in two articles regarding the international relations category. The first study analyses the geo-political strategies of Beijing as military and political opportunities emerging from the construction of these outposts. Their purpose is to give form and legitimacy to a set of hegemonic claims, gaining increased influence in the ASEAN community area, in terms of creating a defensive belt for mainland China with sizable impact in what concerns the international equilibrium of forces. The second article discusses the roles and opportunities presented by the creation of newer and better versions of cryptocurrency, starting with the release of Bitcoin, in 2009.

The journal is completed by an article related to chaordic thinking which underlines the importance of meditation on “world’s complexity that seems to be approaching its growth limit”, considering the “instability”, the “unpredictability” and the “impossibility” of control, in the conditions of exponential development of science, plus a review on Ioan Alexandru’s book entitled “About the sacredness of justice” – a fundamental research topic which is also a central political philosophy subject.

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