

fi fost luate în considerare cu ocazia războiului din Vietnam, dar și cu ocazia războiului din Irak în anul 2003, pierderile masive de vieți omenești ar fi putut fi evitate.

O carte foarte interesantă, extrem de actuală, foarte practică în ceea ce privește relațiile intraguvernamentale și dinamica luării deciziilor într-o democrație.

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Vasile PUȘCAȘ *International/Transnational Relations*, International University Institute For European Studies, Gorizia; Trieste, 2009, 190 pages, ISBN 978-88-89825-25-9

After the *Age of Extremes*. Continuing and expanding knowledge.

The reconstruction, rewriting and reshaping of the past, the forgiveness of historical facts, as well as the lack of interest in understanding history in a dynamical development, even the desecration of social mechanisms that link contemporary history and contemporary experiences of the oldest generations with the new ones, is one of the main characteristics of the XX-th century as well as the 21-th century. The present as we know it, without a link to the past, made historians become the key reference of memory. If we are taking for example Professor Vasile Puscas, and the latest appearance, *International/Transnational Relations*, we can see that historians are more than simple historians, which reproduce in writing the past actions under the suspicions of subjectivity and become an artist of interpenetration, and an analyst of the current present in the development of international scene of our time.

Recent history, as well as global history, shows us that the international relations system is always in a permanent modification. From Antiquity to present, the actions and reactions of the international environment, the mutations that the states had suffered, influenced different regions and other parts of the world; even the conflicts that we witness, offered many examples of the flexibility of the international environment. After 1989, the realist paradigm started to *cool down*, and awaked the dispute between paradigms; as we can see, the influence of the state lowered the possibilities of interference in a global world, and many of the control functions of the state got lost on the process. Still, of the positive actions that we can notice, represents „the awaken” of the self consciousness of the discipline, and the need of understanding and development of these debates.

The debates presented in *International/Transnational Relations* represent the key element of understanding the theory of international relations, and the main debates that took place in the last century. In social sciences and in the international relations science, we can say that the researcher doesn't need to start from point one and reach point two as a logical and mathematical scheme, but needs to use his own knowledge and experience in order to explain a certain phenomenon. Historians usually use a subjective review of history in the process of writing or rewriting history. As we can see in the current case, the personal experience cumulated with the academically background of the writer and with the need of understanding the subject, emphasized the need of expertise on the field of international relations and the need of interdisciplinary knowledge for a wider understanding.

Further more, the academic expertise links with the need of understanding the international relations field, and as we can see in the *International/Transnational Relations*, the need of underlining the main themes and the top debates and topics of the science, emphasizes the fundamental interest of the science. The methods that are used, in order to create a large perspective of the theme, represent the answers that other theoreticians underlined, and the main discussions, debates and approaches that were used, in the field of negotiation, international relations, history of international relations, decision making, diplomacy, national interest and security, and even international economy, international law and globalization. As we can see in the *International/Transnational Relations*, the academic research of the author is combined with the methodic qualitative as well as quantitative methodology. More over, the debates and paradigms that are belonging to the international relations theory are well exposed in a logical and direct fluency. The book, represent one of the few manuals of international relations, that is easy to read and understand and in most cases, cover all the topics that this field requires. In the social sciences we can identify many types of discourses that can be

approach, but in the present case, we can find that all themes are well structured in one place, and we can realize that the achievement and the finality of the writing represent a profound and professional systematization of the main disciplinary concepts. More over the reading the book, we can see that it offers a wide perspective of understanding the research on the adjacent disciplines of the international relations themes. The links and references provided by the author represent the main and most recent sources, as well as most trusted that sends us to some of the most representative factors of research in the field.

The ontology of the book represents in the current case, the image of the reality that the I.R. theory is based. If we are reviewing the methodology of the writing, we can easily observe that the author is detaching from the scholastic tradition, and doesn't interfere on the debates, more over, lives the reader the choice of an approach that is more coherent and closer to reader's point of view. The well implemented use of examples from historical cases, and the use of statistics in sustaining the presented theories, offers a clear perspective on the subject, along with a good comprehension of the main points of view that are taken into consideration. Nevertheless and a *sine qua non* condition in this case, is the representation of the answers that a wide series of theoreticians offered, as well of the implications and impact of their studies to the discipline and to the social sciences.

In the end, we can see that the existence of books that offer in-depth structures of topics of international relations that threat and provide structured information for almost all levels of debates, is limited; moreover, the complementary readings and the global processes, along with the associated issues of the discipline, are either out of date, or are basing the point of view on a main or major topic. This is why, the basic of international relations theory, can be viewed in a single and concise structure.

Cristian Sipeteanu

Mihai ALEXANDRESCU, *Funcționalismul și Sistemul internațional (David Mitrany)*, Cluj-Napoca, Edit. Eikon, 2010, 322 p.

Funcționalismul și contribuția lui David Mitrany în analiza sistemului internațional nu s-au bucurat de atenție în literatura de specialitate din România. Lucrarea *Funcționalismul și Sistemul internațional (David Mitrany)*, scrisă de Mihai Alexandrescu și apărută la Editura Eikon, vine astfel să acopere un gol sau, așa cum menționează autorul încă din primele pagini, „să-l redea pe David Mitrany istoriografiei românești a Relațiilor Internaționale”.

Absolvent al Facultății de Istorie și Filosofie a Universității „Babeș-Bolyai” și din 2009 doctor în relații internaționale și studii europene al aceleiași instituții, Mihai Alexandrescu a abordat parțial subiectul în studii precum *David Mitrany. Viața și opera*, în Nicolae Păun (coord), *Actualitatea mesajului fondatorilor UE*, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Fundației pentru Studii Europene, și *David Mitrany between Functionalism and Federalism*, în „Transylvanian Review”, vol. XVI, No. 1, Spring 2007. *Funcționalismul și Sistemul internațional (David Mitrany)* cuprinde o mare parte din teza sa de doctorat intitulată *David Mitrany – despre funcționalism în evoluția relațiilor internaționale*.

Formarea ca istoric a autorului își pune amprenta asupra modului de abordare a subiectului, o preocupare constantă fiind aceea de a urmări aspecte precum evoluția relațiilor internaționale ca disciplină, atât în spațiul occidental, cât și în cel românesc, inserarea subiectului analizat în contextul intelectual al epocii, identificarea și analiza surselor intelectuale ale funcționalismului lui David Mitrany, operarea unei etapizări a modului în care funcționalismul s-a dezvoltat în opera acestuia (distincția între prefuncționalism, funcționalismul timpuriu și funcționalismul matur). Accentul pus pe evoluție, context, etape este fără îndoială o consecință a îmbinării instrumentelor istoricului cu acelea ale analistului în relații internaționale.

Un alt aspect ce trebuie remarcat este recursul la operele originale ale lui David Mitrany, în cea mai mare parte lucrări publicate înainte de 1943. Opțiunea autorului pentru acest tip de surse își găsește justificarea chiar în paginile lucrării, funcționând totodată drept ipoteză structurantă a întregii argumentații: „El (David Mitrany) poate fi înțeles cu atât mai bine cu cât îl vom citi din prisma istoriografiei care l-a precedat, iar nu al celor care l-au interpretat după 1943.” Fără a ignora istoriografia contemporană asupra