

POLITICS BETWEEN NATIONS. CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, EDITED BY ADEBOWALE AKANDE. SPRINGER, CHAM. 2023.
XXVII, 645 Pp. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-24896-2>.

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Abstract

This book comparatively analyzes global conflicts and diplomatic relations between international players, as well as the mechanisms of public diplomacy, the difficulties of peace diplomacy and hard power war. In the book, the authors pay special attention to the issues of the modern world order, relations between various geopolitical, regional and national actors in an environment of increasingly complex international relations, emerging challenges and threats. The authors pay special attention to the efforts of intergovernmental organizations, the problem of terrorism, including international terrorism, and the violation of global stability, which still remain serious challenges and threats that national states, as well as international institutions, are called upon to solve. The authors analyze various dimensions of the intensification of terrorism, military conflicts and threats to national states emanating from military blocs, and update the issues of terrorist danger and international instability. They note that this state of affairs in the world system puts on the political agenda the importance of enhanced interaction between national states with international weight, resources and capabilities. In this regard, constructive and civilized interaction of all countries in the international arena to counter terrorism and strengthen international stability is of particular relevance.

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Received: 03.11.2023
Revised: 21.11.2023
Accepted: 01.12.2023

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Keywords: global security, public diplomacy, European Union, United States, populism, political instability, propaganda, fake news, Afghanistan, Taliban, war on terror, public affairs management, public affairs leadership, culture of prevention, NATO, American leadership, defense procurement, environmental sustainability.

Modern conflicts and military policies between countries, the concept of soft power have become a response to the changes that have occurred in the international system, since with the advent of the era of globalization the system of international relations has changed dramatically. New actors entered the world stage and were capable of exerting a powerful influence on the course of world history. The new composition of international actors faced completely new problems and challenges that had not been faced either in the 20th or 19th centuries. And finally, new dimensions of power and new sources of power emerged in the struggle for world dominance. One thing has remained unchanged: the goal of all international actors remains power, strength and influence on the world stage. The versatility of the globalization process has reduced the scope for the use of traditional power mechanisms by states and led to changes in models of global competition. In the new era, economic success, ideological credibility, and a country's cultural attractiveness have become more important factors than military power and nuclear weapons.

In modern conditions, characterized by an increase in the number of intercultural conflicts, a deepening gap between developed and developing countries, and the strengthening of the military power of states, the author believes that the thesis that today requires a new look at the fundamental idea of the founders of the UN, the Council of Europe, and the EU is especially relevant and other international organizations about strengthening peace in the minds of people. In addition, it is obvious that the formation of dialogue and the development of interstate cooperation is impossible without abandoning the stereotype of war and violence, the dominance of a particular civilization to the detriment of the development of others (Akande and Goodman 2023; Anderson 2023a).

In the context of ongoing wars and conflicts, the main task of international organizations is to promote the strengthening of peace and international security by expanding cooperation between peoples in the field of education, science and culture in the interests of ensuring universal respect and justice, facing serious challenges associated with the peculiarities of modern international relations and complex internal processes.

American superiority and leadership in NATO, its doctrinal guidelines and activities have traditionally attracted the attention of many scientists. At the same time, there is a lack of works that examine the evolution of NATO and its political doctrine throughout the history of the alliance (Stivachtis 2023a). NATO is the product of the Cold War between two superpowers and two social and political systems. In this regard, it is interesting to consider the change in NATO's political doctrine during the Cold War and after its end, when one of the poles of world politics disappeared, and with it, it would seem, the grounds for NATO's existence disappeared (Pinto 2023b). Studying the dynamics of NATO's political doctrine over a long period is valuable for understanding the processes taking place within the organization, makes it possible to identify the main

patterns of the existence and activities of NATO, and allows one to reasonably draw conclusions about the prospects for the evolution of the North Atlantic Alliance. On the other hand, NATO is of interest to the United States as a tool for achieving and maintaining American dominance over any other power in the world, as well as as a means of ensuring geopolitical control in the territory of Europe and penetration deep into Eurasia. If NATO no longer meets this requirement, Washington will lose interest in NATO, which will lead to the disintegration of the alliance. This could happen if a center of power arises in Europe equal to the United States in military capabilities, independent, neutral or disloyal to American interests. Therefore, the United States, insisting on increasing the military potential of its allies and bringing it to the American level, has always emphasized the importance of its presence in Europe, which means, in essence, that Washington retains a decisive voice in European affairs. The North Atlantic Alliance still occupies an important place in the global plans of the United States, so the United States, as in the Cold War, is ready to support the military capacity of the European component.

In the context of global challenges, cosmopolitan peacekeeping is very valuable in the context of international humanitarian assistance and sustainable development (Rendtorff 2023a; Tonon 2023). Strategic multinational peacekeeping operations will be a key feature of future international security policy. Thus, it is important to learn from the lessons of the past to improve the efficiency of future operations. This book has identified a number of such lessons and also raised questions that require further detailed study (Akande and Goodman 2023; Rendtorff 2023a; Tonon 2023). There are some important issues that need to be addressed, not least the need to ensure that larger and smaller players work effectively together and small and medium powers do not feel excluded, planned and carried out by powerful powers with little regard for their interests and interests. feelings. In addition, it is necessary to improve the organization of the peacekeeping unit and the mechanisms of interaction between national contingents. The very complex form of cooperation can lead to friction and clumsiness in operations as opposed to individual national units. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain and improve the organization of the national peacekeeping unit, its skills of interaction with the population of the conflict territory and other national units of the peacekeeping mission. In order for the actions of a national peacekeeping force to be viewed positively, these actions must be as ethnically, religiously and culturally de-ideologized as possible. Mixed multinational units, trained in appropriate international centers, can help improve intercultural understanding between national contingents and civilian populations. At the same time, the optimal form of their interaction with national units should be worked out.

Improve monitoring of potential conflict zones, long-term planning and strict adherence to legal rules at all stages of the preparation and implementation of peacekeeping missions. Practice preventive deployment under the auspices of the UN to prevent the outbreak of a violent clash between the parties to the conflict. International monitoring of the actions of peacekeeping structures in the context of compliance with the relevant UN and OSCE resolutions, legal norms for conducting peacekeeping operations in the context of compliance with laws and human rights standards, creation, training and consulting of local territorial and border police forces, implementation of

border and customs control, assistance in conducting electoral operations (Tonon 2023; Pinto 2023a; Stivachtis 2023a, 2023b).

The success of a peacekeeping mission largely depends on the diplomatic support of those states that are the main participants in the conflict resolution process in its international legal and international political part. Analysis of diplomatic negotiations and national and international initiatives, peacekeeping projects and plans, as well as the implementation of a number of them in practice, indicates the need for further development of the ideological and political scientific basis of peacekeeping as part of world politics and the foreign policy of national states (Stivachtis 2023b, 2023c). The main emphasis should be on the problem of interaction and cooperation in the peacekeeping process.

In this context, the global security system has become even weaker after Russia's failed attack on Ukraine and the policy of military incompetence on the part of the Russian ruling elite (Anderson 2023b; Goodman 2023a). It is obvious that before February 24, 2022 and even after 2014, Russia still managed to establish regular, multi-level mechanisms for bilateral relations on security issues with the EU and NATO. At the same time, the established bodies were mainly focused on consultations and information exchange, rather than the implementation of joint decisions and actions. Among the reasons hindering the development of security cooperation, the following can be identified: 1) Russia's disinterest in the real influence of the EU and NATO on the process of developing and making important decisions regarding the internal development of these institutions; 2) concerns of Western countries about the advisability of deepening relations related to political instability, the economic crisis, the state of the Russian armed forces, and the prospects for the development of the country as a democratic state; 3) disagreements between Russia, NATO and the EU regarding the formation of a European security system and the distribution of functions between organizations; 4) methods of conducting anti-crisis operations, often ignoring the opinions of NATO and the EU on certain regional security problems on the part of Russia; 5) for the EU and NATO, dialogue with Russia was mainly important for obtaining approval from Russia for its plans for expansion and military-political transformation.

Changes of a military-political and conceptual nature taking place within the EU and NATO, of course, also had and continue to have a serious impact on the level of their cooperation with Russia. The EU's military-political initiatives, like enlargement, were perceived as part of the natural development of the European integration process, as an attempt to maintain solid economic potential by strengthening its role as an influential international player (Goodman 2023b). Strengthening the military-political dimension of the EU was considered by Russia from the point of view of the concept of multipolarity.

In the context of global and regional conflicts, the protection of human rights, sustainable development and climate change are considered in various aspects and from the point of view of various sciences, both natural sciences and the humanities (Rendtorff 2023b; Akande et al. 2023; Chaney et al. 2023). The task of international organizations is to find, justify and establish the best ways to implement ambitious recommendations resulting from natural science research, for example, to reduce global greenhouse gas

emissions. Indeed, law has enormous regulatory potential. It should be noted that in the issue of preventing climate change, legal regulation must be carried out both at the international and domestic levels (Stivachtis 2023d). National law and international law are in constant interaction, especially regarding the issue of climate conservation (Afolabi 2023). What is important is the fact not only of the creation of norms of international law, but also of their consistent implementation. States have a direct responsibility to set in motion the mechanism of legal norms and turn it into a permanent regulator of behavior.

The increasing pace of the threat of nuclear war to the West and social changes in the world are making the future less stable and more unpredictable (Goodman 2023c). The main contradiction in the modern world has clearly emerged, arising as a result of the desire of Russia and China to neutralize the democratic influence of the United States, thereby trying to dominate the world community. Another reason for the contradictions in the modern world is also the fact that the desire of many states to take into account their interests in the world community, the growing conflict, fueled by economic, geopolitical, ethnic, religious, intercivilizational contradictions, deforms the existing state of global and regional relative stability (Cimbala and Lowther 2023). The number of military actors operating on the world stage that are capable of disrupting existing regional balances of power is increasing.

Many both positive and negative factors of interstate and intrastate relations in their interaction will increase their influence on global and regional stability in the world. Among the many factors complicating the international situation, the main one is the destabilizing geopolitical dynamics of terrorism and crime, expressed in the emergence of imbalances of power in a number of regions and the associated fears of countries, and the revival of competitive relations between former geopolitical rivals (Gray and Seltzer 2023; Pinto and da Silva 2023). In addition, increased armament with modern types of conventional weapons, preconditions for the proliferation of nuclear weapons (Russia, China, Pakistan, North Korea) lead to increased dynamics of processes, shifting; regional balances of power are increasingly unstable. As emerging trends intensify, a significant qualitative difference arises between the present and future worlds. The modern world is conflictual and all conflicts are interconnected, as a rule, from each other in geographical space and actively interact with each other. Moreover, they dominate world affairs because they arise in an international system with relatively unstable structural characteristics.

The increase in global stability is accompanied by an increase in regional instability. The collapse of some states and the emergence of other states, the transformation of bloc structures are accompanied by the aggravation of interethnic contradictions, the renewal of territorial claims and outbreaks of armed conflicts, including in the immediate vicinity of Russia and on its territory.

Regional instability is stimulated by the competitive struggle of states for the redistribution of spheres of influence, sources of raw materials and leadership in individual regions and in the world as a whole. In resolving interstate problems, the tendency to rely on the active use of military force to the detriment of political and diplomatic means continues. In the immediate environment of the United States, along with traditional global centers of power, new regional centers of power have emerged

and are strengthening (Russia, China, Japan, Türkiye, Iran), with comparable US armed forces. A particular danger of this trend lies in the fact that these states have military-doctrinal guidelines that provide for the use of military force, including nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction, to achieve their foreign policy goals.

The establishment of global stability and, above all, nuclear security occurs in conditions of increased risk of further proliferation of nuclear weapons. And this process will be long-term, since the measures taken by the international community are aimed only at containing it.

A serious danger to global development is posed by the increase in the number of nuclear states, and this can lead, firstly, to the emergence of new nuclear threats; secondly, to an increase in the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons, due to a misconception about their capabilities by political leaders of states who view them as conventional weapons; thirdly, to a violation of military-strategic stability based on the balance of strategic weapons and the threat of nuclear terrorism, nuclear blackmail, unauthorized missile launches, emergencies and disasters (Anderson 2023c; Salavrakos, Palmadessa and Radvila 2023; Cimbala 2023).

One of the most striking characteristics of modern international politics is its secular nature. The process of a clear distinction between the religious and political spheres can be considered completed in the vast majority of democratic states of the West: the motives for interaction on the world political arena are determined, first of all, by the interests of politics and economics, and only lastly by the interests of religion. However, in regions where Islam spreads, we observe the opposite trend, the growing influence of the religious factor on the political process. Today we can state the desire of the “Islamic State” not only to become isolated players in world politics, but also, what is much more important, to consolidate within the Islamic world (Sheikh 2023). Uniting under the auspices of international organizations, they are making attempts to create an alternative to the Western world, politically, economically, and ideologically. Determining the conditions and logic of the formation and development of Islam at the initial stage of its emergence will largely contribute to understanding the meaning and true goals of those political and legal norms that are reflected in the sources of Islam. Such an understanding makes it possible to guard against blind adherence and maintain a reasonable selection of values.

Over the years, attempts have been made to overcome these difficulties, to develop a different vision of the “Islamic state”, in which it becomes possible to consolidate democratic principles and values, as well as the achievements of secularization. These attempts are associated with the development of various projects of an “alternative Islamic state”, presented in various interpretations by many Muslim thinkers. Today, when the need to take into account the Islamic factor in international politics is more than urgent, they acquire particular relevance both in theoretical and practical terms. Therefore, the study of the phenomenon of the reformist movement in Islamic political thought is rightfully an important task of modern political science.

The book analyzes the trends in the new strategy of relations between the EU and Africa, as well as the development and formation of foreign economic relations (Mișcoiu and Petrica 2023; Lulat 2023). In the context of globalization of the economy and the deepening of the international division of labor, countries are increasingly interacting

with each other, introducing new elements and forms into this process. Economic relations between European and African states are of great theoretical and practical interest. The study and analysis of the interaction of two completely different groups of states, not only in terms of their level of economic and social development, but also in relation to factors of production, deserves increased attention, due to insufficient knowledge of this problem (Mişcoiu and Petrica 2023; Lulat 2023).

Since African countries gained independence, Europe has not lost its interest both in the natural resources of the continent and in the markets for its products. Moreover, the importance of possessing raw energy resources of a particular African country increases the impact on its internal socio-economic development, and therefore on the foreign policy and foreign economic policy of the state. It is this circumstance that gives oil, gas, water and many other factors the character of economic development, especially in a situation when the needs of most states for them are growing, and the supply is steadily declining. Accordingly, the interaction of countries in the field of extraction and use of natural resources contributes to the closest cooperation. For African countries, strengthening and diversifying the forms of foreign economic relations is even more important due to their economic backwardness. Thanks to Euro-African economic cooperation, African countries have the opportunity to implement political and economic reforms, prevent military conflicts and maintain stability in the region. Cooperation makes it possible to implement interregional, regional and subregional integration projects, and the creation of new economic actors at the primary level creates the preconditions for the development of European integration.

The book also comparatively analyzes the issues of Europeanization of Romania and the significance of US international relations with Poland (Mişcoiu 2023; Jones 2023; Anderson 2023c). The authors pay attention to the fact that integration associations play an important role in modern political realities, which are a reflection of the growing trend of interconnection between states and the need to solve a number of problems to ensure political stability, economic prosperity and security in different parts of the world. The geopolitical importance of Romania and Poland for the EU and the US is related to the promotion of future political, energy and economic projects, as well as the creation of a strong political union capable of confronting Russia and China.

The complex of internal transformations in Romania and Poland, arising as a reaction to the impact of the European integration agenda, is described by the phenomenon of Europeanization. The study of the mechanisms and effectiveness of external Europeanization of Romania and Poland expands the understanding of the capabilities of the EU as an actor in international politics. Against the backdrop of a radical restructuring of the symbolic space of Europe, the study of subregions with a specific historical fate and corresponding identitarian complexes is of particular importance. Understanding the internal political dynamics of post-socialist countries involved in the process of European integration indicates development trends and challenges formed around the core institutions of the European security system.

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