

Svetlana Suveică, Ion Eremia, Sergiu Matveev, Sorin Şipoş (coord), *Istoriografie și Politică în Estul și Vestul Spațiului Românesc /Historiography and politics in the East and West of Romanian space*, Editura Cartdidact, Chişinău/Oradea, 2009, ISBN 978-973-759-793-9, 235 p.

The book “*Istoriografie și politică în Estul și Vestul spațiului românesc*” (Historiography and politics in the East and West of Romanian space) brings into the spotlight important issues for Romanian and Bessarabian history, such as the Jews from Russia and Bessarabia in the view of Russian historiography, the problem of the formation of Moldavian people in the view of postbelic Sovietic studies, politics and historiography in the Republic of Moldavia, Silviu Dragomir and his work concerning the Romanity from the North of Balkans, Rural Romanian history and its relation with politics, the identity and memory as seen in post 1991 Moldavia reflected in historical speech, the Gagauz as seen by historiography, historical-archaeological considerations concerning the VIII and IX centuries in North West of Romania, the valachian ways of the crusades at the end of XV century, the conspiracy of Maximilian I of Habsburg and Stephen III the Great against the kings of Hungary and Poland at the end of XV century, myth and reality in Moldavian-Russian relations in the year 1654, ethnical identity in Transylvania at the end of XIX century and at the beginning of XX century, French diplomatic documents with reference to the status of Northern Transylvania (1945-1947), translating for propaganda purposes and the nation building and the Soviet cultural policies in Moldavian Republic (1944-1989).

The authors Ion Gumenăi, Sergiu Matveev, Svetlana Suveică, Sorin Şipoş, Barbu Ştefănescu, Andrei Cuşco, Igor Şarov, Anatol Petrencu, Florin Sfrengu, Alexandru Simon, Ioan-Aurel Pop, Alexandru Simon, Ion Eremia, Mircea Brie, Antonio Faur, Cătălina Iliescu Gheorghiu, Octavian Țicu show us images from Bessarabian and Romanian history along the history, bringing thus together the history of these two territories united by historical ties.

An important study is the one of Ion Gumenăi which reveals aspects from Russian historiography concerning the Jews from Russia and Bessarabia, underlining the opinions of Jewish friends but also of the enemies of the Jews. The supporters of the Jews militated for the improvement of the condition of Jews in Russia and Bessarabia as they were living in separate zone of residence and showed Jewish merits in the development of Russian Empire. The enemies of the Jews were considering that the Jews were acting against the Russian society and feared that they would come out from their zone of residence and will conquer Russian society. They were complaining also about poor performances of the Jews in agriculture.

Svetlana Suveică shows us the condition of historian in the years 1960 and 1970 and the situation of the historical writing. The historiography was a tool of political power which assured its legitimacy. The freedom of expression and free thinking of historians were impossible in those times, the historian pursuing party and state ideologies.

Sorin Şipoş underlines the scientific activity of Silviu Dragomir after his release from prison at the Institute of History and Archeology from Cluj-Napoca. His research on the history of Romanians from North – West of Balkan Peninsula underlined the role of this population during the Middle Age, his results being also confirmed by other authors.

Barbu Ştefănescu underlines the image of rural history of Romania as reflected in the writings of historians. Dimitrie Cantemir, Şcoala Ardeleană, Nicolae Bălcescu, Alexandru Papiu Ilarion, Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu and Nicolae Densușianu, the Critical School of Nicolae Iorga and A. D. Xenopol, David Prodan are only a few authors who wrote about Romanian village and rural world.

Ioan-Aurel Pop and Alexandru Simon writes about the conspiracy organized by German King Maximilian of Hapsburg and the Moldavian Prince Stephen the Great against

two kings of Jagiello family from Hungary and Poland with the purpose to eliminate them. They underline the importance of Moldavian prince in the fight for defending Christian civilization.

Mircea Brie studies the ethnical identity of the population of Transylvania at the end of XIX century and at the beginning of XX century. In his opinion as personal declarations considering the individual ethnical identity are rarely encountered, language, religion and the name of person are important tools for finding a person's ethnical identity.

The other papers focus also on the history of Romania and Bessarabia. The volume is an interesting lecture showing the historical, cultural and political aspects of the two territories which form together the Romanian space.

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Michel Nazet, *La Russie et ses marges: nouvel empire?*, Ellipses Edition Marketing S.A., 2007, ISBN 2-7298-2-7298-3235-3, 190 p.

The book "*La Russie et ses marges: nouvel empire?*" written by Michel Nazet approaches subjects as the collapse of Soviet Union (1989-1991), the development of new Russia between 1992-2007, Russia in the quest of a democracy "à la russe", Russian capitalism, restructuration and reorganization of the space of ex-Russian Empire, Russia as a tactical player, etc.

The present book includes notions of the history of Russia starting with the idea of Moscow as the third Rome, emphasizing Russian nationalism developed in the first half of XIX-th century, continuing with Russian orthodoxy as a home which sustains Russian nationalism and emphasizing the negative image of Stalin in contemporary Russia. The book mentions the creation of the Community of Independent States at Minsk at December 8 1991 which replaced the former Soviet Union. It also refers to the communist party as a leading force in Russia and to the developments achieved during the presidency of Boris Eltsin and Vladimir Putin.

Boris Eltsin was elected as president of Russia at May 29 1990. He was the main actor of the dissolution of Soviet Union. During the last years of Eltsin government the value of Russian devise decreased, the activity decreased with 5% of GDP because of the financial crisis, the wages decreased also with 30%. The author emphasized that Eltsin renounced to the politics of "choc therapy" searching for a "new way" which to maintain budgetary discipline and the fight against corruption.

During the presidency of Vladimir Putin, the years 2000 – 2004 the author stresses that the economical situation was improved. Another aspect is the fact that after the terrorist attack from September 11 2001, Russia got involved in the antiterrorist campaign. This common fight against terrorism determined the fact that Russia started to develop stronger diplomatic relations with the Old Europe also involved in the antiterrorist campaign.

During the presidency of Vladimir Putin, Russia was divided in 7 great districts which are mentioned by the author: Center (Moscow), North-West (Sankt Petersburg), South (Rostov-sur-le-Don), Volga (Nijni-Novgorod), Ural (Ekaterinburg), Siberia (Novossibirsk), Extreme Orient (Khabarovsk).

Michel Nazet underlines the situation of the main areas of economy during the years of Vladimir Putin's leadership, such as: the situation of state capitalism, the situation of military –industrial sector, investment funds, public services, private sector, privatization, agrarian reform, Banks, foreign investments, joint-ventures, the difficulties encountered in the economic field. He identifies obstacles encountered in the development of the country such as

the financing of economy which is not sufficient, the bad condition of infrastructure and telecommunications, the problems identified in sustainable development.

The authors identify the condition of the present day Russian economy, after 15 years of difficult transition. Russia is capitalist economy in which the state plays an important role, the state has the control in the field of hydrocarbons, the people who have the power are close relations of leading political persons and the Russian state is facing the problem of massive corruption at all levels of the society.

The book is worth reading for offering us the image of a page of Russian contemporary history and because it provides the main features of development of Russian society and economy during the presidency of Boris Eltsin and Vladimir Putin.

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Eurolimes (Journal of the Institute for Euroregional Studies), Europe and the Neighbourhood, Volume No. 7, Spring 2009, Oradea University Press, ISSN: 1841-9259, 207 pp.

The 2009 spring issue of the Journal of the Institute for Euroregional Studies is dedicated to one of the most challenging issues related to the reconfiguration of transnational and regional relations after the EU enlargement in 2007. Neighbourhood represents both a variable concept and a variable reality. Ten years ago, from an EU perspective, the European neighbourhood was considered to be represented by the southern and eastern candidate states. After the enlargements in 2004 and 2007, the Eastern frontier of EU has changed and a new neighbourhood emerged. Therefore, new approaches and policies were established in order to manage the relations with the neighbourhood. Within this context, there are noticeable signals that the mutual influence between EU and the neighbourhood does not take place necessarily around the border or in the proximity of the frontier. The dynamics of exchanges, trade, travel and communication involves a relationship that affects both sides, in a complex scale of interdependences. Many times the echoes are better identified not on the border, but in the states capitals and major cities.

Eurolimes comes with a multi-perspective approach about the opportunities and challenges of a European Neighbourhood. The studies gathered in this volume are organised in three main sections: The European Union and the Neighbourhood, Connecting European Neighbours, Neighbourhood and Crossborder Experience. A particular study, signed by Carlos E. Pacheco Amaral represents a *Focus* section which brings into our attention the essence, meaning and value of the idea of Europe.

The first section addresses the issue of Neighbourhood from the European Union viewpoint. The first observation, common to all the authors that cover this issue, is that the EU needs indeed a clear and coherent European Neighbourhood Policy, with proper political and financial support. The first argument is developed by Dacian Duna in an analysis regarding the security approach of Northern and Southern dimensions of the EU. Before the exploration of political, economical and cultural potential of the neighbourhood, EU must ensure that any projects and investments are to be made in a secure and predictable environment. Another article submitted by Irina Pop investigates the assessment of the ENP in South Caucasus, in a context where it becomes clear that an important issue in the EU-Caucasian states will be the energy security, in a context where Russia has a major interest in exerting its influence. From a similar perspective, Sinem Kocamaz makes her argumentation on the role of Transcaucasian states, mainly Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The cross-border cooperation as a strategic dimension

of ENP at the eastern frontier of the EU is analysed by Nicolae Dandiş and is focused on specific programmes, financial instruments and CBC projects.

The second section brings into attention the trans-national dimensions of cultural contributions. In the context of neighbourhood mutual influence, there are several issues that the authors considered that should be analysed. Gilles Rouet proposes a debate on the perceptions of Europe from a citizens' perspective. His main argument states that the cultural heritage of Europe is an accumulation of national cultures and cultural influences. Consequently, the national visions of Europe had an influence upon the conceptualization of the neighbourhood which has been a predominant cultural orientation.

One of the most striking cultural differences in Europe consists in the interaction between Christianity and Islam. The representation of identity is analysed by Marius Lazăr in a paper that emphasise different aspects of cultural manifestation of Islamist groups in Europe. Muslim populations settled in European countries have brought not only cultural practices but also various oppositions, rivalries and conflicts.

A fresh perspective over the neighbourhood relations is offered by Thierry Côme who identifies forms of interaction and exchange that can contribute decisively in the emergence of a new perception of Europe and the European identity. His article on the Erasmus program and other forms of mobility for students, acknowledge that the frontier does not represent a limit, but a line to be crossed for a better understanding and contributes decisively in the formation of a new identity.

The third section is focused on the cross-border experiences and neighbourhood relations from a perspective that considers the frontier as an area of exchange and influence. Fahrettin Sumer suggests in his article that Turkey represents a particular case of a special partnership in the relation with the EU, and presents the pros and cons of Turkey's accession into the EU, stressing that the scenarios of membership or non-membership will be consequential not only for Turkey's future but also for that of the EU.

Professor Istvan Suli-Zakar examines the role of the Euroregions and Eurometropolises in the etheralization of the borders in the Eastern periphery of the EU. His perspective is based on mutual sharing and comparative advantages that can be found on both sides of any border and the need to introduce institutions and rules that can widen the prospects of regional and trans-border development. A similar analytical framework is used by Zoltan Gal in his study on the Danube region from a viewpoint that underlines the future prospect of transnational cooperation as a playground of the European integration. In both articles we can track arguments of a revisited functionalism.

A distinct perspective of neighbourhood is offered by Vasile Nazare who explores the security and military dimension of the neighbourhood, with a case study on the role of Romanian naval forces in crisis management in the Black Sea area. The main conclusion is that the security environment is required as an argument to ensure confidence among all the actors interested in the development of different forms of regional cooperation.

The overall content of this issue of *Eurolimes* underlines, that there are so many interdependencies between Europe and its neighbourhood and we believe that the arguments developed in the articles demonstrate how important the neighbourhood is for the Europe. A particular model as the EU, must develop and implement particular models of relationship with the neighbourhood. We appreciate that the subject must be further developed because the challenges and opportunities are still under investigation by EU, governments and social and economic actors in the European space.

Mircea Brie, Ioan Horga, *Relațiile Internaționale de la echilibru până la sfârșitul Concertului European (sec XVII - începutul secolului XX) / International Relations from the balance at the end of the European Concert (XVII century - beginning of XX century)*, University of Oradea Publishing House, 2009, 389 p., ISBN 978-973-759-925-4

The first course for the study of history of international relations in the XVII-XX occurred in the University of Oradea Publishing House, the work of International Relations at equilibrium at the end of the European Concert (XVII century - beginning of XX century) is already in its second edition, the first being in 2006. Lengthy research paper sums up two specialists in International Relations and European Studies, Mircea Brie and Ioan Horga, teachers of the Faculty of History, Geography and International Relations from the University of Oradea. At first, Mircea Brie, a Ph.D. in history, and owner of the International Relations of the XVII – XIX centuries lecture of the above mentioned faculty and Head of Department of International Relations. European Studies. The second, Ioan Horga, is Dean of Faculty, Director of Institute for Euroregional Studies, Jean Monnet, Professor and Member of the Commission of Social Sciences, Political and Communication.

Eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were centuries of ever more powerful assertion of national spirit. With the affirmation of nation, European wars have seen other connotations. Diplomacy, including the secret, has won for itself the role of the new geopolitical context. In time, state the authors of the paper, the existing system of international relations between the European powers is based on a series of marriage, complemented by economic or geostrategic interests. These systems were designed alliance policy implementation pursued individually.

The scene of international relations aimed at the three centuries was marked by rivalry between the Habsburgs and Bourbon, supplemented or more precisely balanced the interests of the main games maritime powers, England. The book is a balanced overview of developments and various aspects regarding the importance and "play" the diplomat in eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Here it was underlined the role of diplomatic missions that have increased since the second half of the seventeenth century. Starting from the war for 30 years, which represented the birth of a new Europe, it increased the prevalence and role of French and British diplomacy in the international system.

A special place was given to the *Congress of Vienna and the European Concert, 1814-1830*. This chapter has marked the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the beginning of a new European order. The authors of this paper aim to broaden the scope of interests and outside Europe, with a chapter on America's role in the international system of the period of 1783-1895. A particular importance was given to the impact of the revolutions of 1830 -1848 and the question of East and Mediterranean. The paper concludes with a description of bankruptcy of the European Concert 1848-1871, emphasizing on Italian and German unification process, and the German dominance in Europe and Bismarck diplomacy (1871-1890). The book is a reference to this field and is a necessary reference work for students of International Relations. European Studies. Written in an accessible form to the general public, the book does not lose the character of university academics, both in content and the quality of synthesis and analysis of giving evidence.

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“Security Sector Reform. The Political Usage of Conflicts. European Security and Defence Policy”, in: *Western Balkans Security Observer*, No. 11, October-November 2008, Belgrad. ISSN 1452-6115.

La grande actualité de la problématique relevée par le titre de la revue qui apparaît à Belgrade, peut susciter d’un coup l’attention des chercheurs intéressés par le sujet de la politique extérieure et de sécurité commune de l’Union européenne, et spécialement à ceux qui, fortement compétents dans le sujet, savent bien l’importance de la réforme de ce secteur de politiques communes européennes. La deuxième partie du titre, concernant l’utilisation politique des conflits, n’est pas du tout moins intéressante, même il n’est pas très facile de soupçonner les conflits en question. Un court regard sur le sommaire de la revue nous donnera toutefois la réponse.

Comme dans les autres numéros, la revue belgradoise est très clairement partagée en sections distinctes, chacune agissant sur un sujet concret et bien déterminé. Ainsi, le présent numéro de *Western Balkans Security Observer (WBSO)* contient trois sections d’articles, chacune reflétant une des trois parties du titre, et une section de révisions.

La première section comprend l’article de Jelena Radoman sur le concept de la réforme dans le secteur de la sécurité, et celui de Barry Ryan, sur la réforme du politique en Serbie. L’article de J. Radoman s’appuie sur un sujet assez récente dans les recherches académiques, un concept qui a ses fondements dans les changements politiques de la fin des années ’80 et le processus de démocratisation et d’accès aux différents structures supranationales parcouru par les anciens États communistes. La portée du concept est de plus en plus claire si on considère l’importance de la réforme dans le secteur de la sécurité pour les nouvelles démocraties européennes devant leur entrée dans les structure de l’OTAN, par exemple. J. Radoman met également en évidence les trois directions d’étude du concept de la réforme dans le secteur de la sécurité, à savoir les relations d’entre l’espace civile et celui militaire, les études du développement et de la sécurité. L’autre article de cette section réalise une histoire de la réforme d’espace politique en Serbie à partir de la monarchie constitutionnelle jusqu’à la période de transition qui a suivi l’époque de la guerre. Même si l’auteur a effectué une très bonne exposition générale, l’étude n’est toutefois suffisamment profonde, spécialement pour la période d’après la guerre, sur laquelle les études claires et profondes sont encore peu nombreuses.

La deuxième section d’articles, concernant l’utilisation politique du conflit, rassemble les articles de Jelena Radoman sur la relation d’entre la deuxième guerre tchéchène et la stratégie politique promue par V. Putin ; l’article de Věra Stojarová et Miroslav Mareš sur le rôle de la République Srpska dans le processus d’intégration européenne de la Croatie, et l’article de Tatjana Petrović concernant les divergences d’entre les politiques de sécurité de l’Union européenne et de la Russie, avec un étude de cas sur Kosovo, Bessarabie et Georgie. En ce qui concerne l’article de Jelana Radoman, celui-ci commence avec une très précise mise à point du cadre politique régional caucasien (la deuxième guerre tchéchène) et le début d’une nouvelle situation politique dans la fédération russe (l’arrivée au pouvoir de V. Putin et le début d’une nouvelle étape dans l’histoire politique de la Russie). Le mérite de l’auteur est celui d’avoir mettre en évidence la capacité de mobilisation de V. Putin dans un certain contexte géopolitique, mobilisation dont les effets ont été bénéfiques pour le recommencement du système politique et également de l’État russe. Assez importante sont, pour J. Radoman, les bénéfices que le président Putin a su bien en profiter : la fortification des pouvoirs présidentiels et la création d’un besoin pour un dirigeant puissant, charismatique et même dominateur. Le deuxième article de cette partie, celui de Věra Stojarová et Miroslav Mareš sur le rôle (plus ou moins important) de la République Srpska dans le processus d’intégration euro-atlantique et européenne de la Croatie, un rôle interprété par les biais de

différents conflits où la République Srpska a été impliquée à partir des années 1990, quand la dite république a obtenu son indépendance. L'auteur réalise une très ample description de la scène politique du petit pays et souligne tant les influences des situations conflictuelles que des hommes et de partis politiques radicales et nationalistes. Le dernier article de cette section, celui de T. Petrović, s'appuie aussi sur un sujet sensible et longtemps discuté dans le monde politique et de l'analyse politique contemporaine. Comme l'auteur elle-même affirme, l'article essaie à réaliser une parallèle entre la manière de traiter les conflits de l'Union européenne et celle de la Russie, à partir de trois conflits importants, ceux du Kosovo, Transnistrie et Georgie (en ce qui concerne la dernière, sans le conflits déclanché le 08 août 2008). Le point de départ de l'article le constitue la possible influence de la déclaration d'indépendance de Kosovo sur les régions de conflits « gelés » de l'ancienne Union Soviétique. Le sujet est devenu très commun pendant les débats (européennes et russes) sur l'indépendance du Kosovo et également après la Déclaration d'indépendance de cette province. Comme conclusion, T. Petrović affirme que la Déclaration d'indépendance de la province Kosovo a eu plusieurs effets, parmi les plus importants étant le surcroît de divergences politiques d'entre l'Union européenne et la fédération russe, l'impossibilité d'établir un accord à long temps entre les deux parties mentionnées, chacun de deux acteurs internationaux envisageant l'application de son plan politique. L'auteur met en évidence les réactions de leaders politiques de Bessarabie et de Georgie, les deux inquiétés sur la nouvelle situation géopolitique et ne reconnaissant pas le nouveau statut du Kosovo. Pour la fin de l'article, l'auteur reprend l'idée du début, concernant la déstabilisation de la relation UE-Russie à cause de la politique extérieure de l'UE.

La dernière section d'article contient uniquement l'article de Dragana Đurašinović-Radojević relatif au contrôle parlementaire sur la politique européenne de sécurité et de défense, et spécialement sur les instruments et les méthodes utilisées par le Parlement européen dans ses démarches. D. Đurašinović-Radojević evidencie très bien le rôle militaire de plus en plus important de l'Union européenne, tant dans le conflit de l'ancienne Yougoslavie qu'en Afrique ou en Asie, mais considère le rôle du Parlement européen encore peu important dans le processus décisionnel concernant le Politique Extérieure et de Sécurité Commune (PESC), le Conseil et les parlements nationaux des États membres étant encore plus importants que l'institution européenne mentionnée. De point de vue de l'auteur, la possibilité d'adopter des résolutions, recommandations, rapports ou décisions sur les missions PESC, doublée par le contrôle budgétaire et les interpellations que le PE peut les adresser à la Commission européenne ou au Conseil ou par les groupes de travail sur les problèmes de politique extérieures et défense (groupes que le PE peut bien les organiser) ne sont pas suffisantes. Ce qui est important pour Đurašinović-Radojević est la pré-approbation du PE pour toute mission PESC déclanchée par l'Union européenne, devenant ainsi une partie active dans le processus décisionnel.

Même une très courte regarde sur le contenu du numéro 11 de la revue *Western Balkans Security Observer* peut être suffisant pour nous faire une impression sur la qualité et l'actualité des sujets abordés. Toutefois, il ne faut pas rester au surface des choses, parce que les auteurs de cette revue viennent avec leur propre vue sur les événements européens et internationaux sorte souvent de tout chablon et nous offre une autre point de vue, parfois de l'intérieur de certains faits moins connus.

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Strobe Talbott, **The Great Experiment: The Story of Ancient Empires, Modern States, and the Quest for a Global Nation**, Simon-Schuster Hardcover Ed edition, New York, 2008, 496 p., ISBN-10: 0743294084; ISBN-13: 978-0743294089

Strobe Talbott (born April 25, 1946) is an American foreign policy analyst associated with Yale University and the Brookings Institution, a former journalist associated with Time magazine and diplomat who served as the Deputy Secretary of State from 1994 to 2001. In 1972 Strobe Talbott, along with his friends Robert Reich (a fellow Rhodes Scholar) and 2nd Lt. David E. Kendall, rallied to his friends Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton to help them in their Texas campaign to elect George McGovern president of the United States. Through the 1980s he was Time magazine's principal correspondent on Soviet-American relations, and wrote several books on disarmament, and his work for the magazine was cited in the three Overseas Press Club Awards won by Time in the 1980s. Following Bill Clinton's election to national office, Talbott was invited into government where he served at first managing the consequences of the Soviet breakup as Ambassador-at-large and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States. After leaving government, he was for a period Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization. He is currently the president of the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Strobe Talbott, provides us an excellent overview of human political history enriched by personal experiences and comments, all organized to show how humanity is slowly but surely creating larger political units to the point where now the next step is a creation of a global nation, a politically unified community that encompasses the whole Earth. Talbott gave us his general viewpoint in his 1992 article in TIME when he said, "I'll bet that within the next hundred years . . . nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority" (pp. 126-27) He now adds, "I have qualified my forecast somewhat, but not in essence" (p. 127). The book's vast historical sweep, apparent in the subtitle, is also evident in the three parts into which the 405-page survey is divided: "The Imperial Millennia" (roughly up to 1914), "The American Centuries" (roughly up to the end of the Cold War in 1990), and "The Unipolar Decades" (from 1991 to the present). There are also another 71 pages of notes in this carefully documented work.

World federalists will especially enjoy reading chapter 10 titled "The Master Builder," which covers the end of World War II, the beginning of the U.N., and the all-too-brief flourishing of the world federalist movement. Most readers will be surprised to learn that Harry Truman, from the time he graduated from high school in 1901, carried a scrap of paper in his wallet on which were written 12 lines of Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "Locksley Hall," including the lines "Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furl'd, In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World." Talbott notes that "Truman recopied this text by hand as many as forty times during his life" (p.184) and that in a 1951 conversation with author John Hersey Truman said, "Notice that part about universal law. . . . We're going to have that someday. I guess that's what I've really been working for ever since I first put that poetry in my pocket" (p. 210).

The negative reactions of world federalists to the U.N. plus their arguments for a radical change are described in detail. The book also contains several statements that suggest that world federalist ideas are having some influence in unexpected places. For example, Talbott notes that in the first edition of his 1948 classic POLITICS AMONG NATIONS prominent realist political theorist Hans Morgenthau noted that "the argument of the advocates of the world state is unanswerable. There can be no permanent international peace without a state coextensive with the confines of the political world and a radical transformation of the existing international society of sovereign nations into a supranational

community of individuals" (p. 198). In 1992 Ronald Reagan said that he could foresee "a standing UN force--an army of conscience--that is fully equipped and prepared to carve out human sanctuaries through force if necessary" (p. 258). In his 2006 farewell address at the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, "The United States has given the world an example of a democracy in which everyone, including the most powerful, is subject to legal restraint. It's a current moment of world supremacy gives it a priceless opportunity to entrench the same principles at the global level" (p. 391).

Talbott provides interesting inside accounts of crucial events and international meetings during the years of the Clinton administration as well as an insightful analysis of the actions and views of individuals in the current Bush administration, he concludes with a trenchant critique of the worldview and policies of George W. Bush, whose presidency he calls a "consequential aberration" in the history of American foreign policy. Then, looking beyond the morass in Iraq and the battle for the White House. His last chapter, "The Crucial Years," focuses on the upcoming U.S. Presidential election and the policies Talbott believes the United States should adopt as well as the issues that must be addressed. "The next administration should . . . waste no time in demonstrating that respect for international law is once again part of the bedrock of U.S. foreign policy" (p. 393). There should be greater support for the United Nations, but beyond that "the UN needs to be incorporated into an increasingly variegated network of structures and arrangements--some functional in focus, others geographic; some intergovernmental, others based on systematic collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and NGOs" (p. 394). The United States should "encourage regional organizations to develop their own capacities as well as habits of cooperation with one another and with the UN itself" (p. 395). Also "ensuring a peaceful twenty-first century will depend in large measure on narrowing the divide between those who feel like winners and those who feel like losers in the process of globalization" (p. 395).

With regard to the most urgent problems to be tackled Talbott points to "two clear and present dangers. One is a new wave of nuclear-weapons proliferation; the other is a tipping point in the process of climate change. These mega-threats can be held at bay in the crucial years immediately ahead only through multilateralism on a scale far beyond anything the world has achieved to date" (p. 395). Talbott concludes with this comment: "By solving these two problems that are truly urgent, we can increase the chances that eventually . . . the world will be able to ameliorate or even solve other problems that are merely very important. Whether future generations make the most of such a world, and whether they think of it as a global nation or just as a well-governed international community, is up to them. Whether they have the choice is up to us" (p. 401). It seems to this reviewer that Talbott strays from his own basic insights when he suggests that the nuclear proliferation problem might be resolved by multilateralism on a grand scale in the absence of a prior revolutionary change to the global nation system (that is, to a world federation) which would substantially restrict national sovereignty.

In my opinion "The Great Experiment" provides a richer, deeper account of the idea of global governance in American foreign policy, it's a rare combination of historical narrative with personal insight, wisdom, and analytic. It should be a call to action for leaders at the highest level.

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The two numbers RJE focuses mainly on economic crisis phenomenon. The articles present the views of the authors on the challenges in terms of financial crisis, seeking to answer questions relating to the listing for New Member States to join the euro-zone in the next future. Thus in the study entitled *“The Monetary Union: the decade ahead. The case of non-Member States”*, Daniel Daianu, Laurian Lungu say that *“The current financial crisis some Maastricht criteria it would be more difficult to fulfill in the short and medium term”* (RJE, vol. 9 / 1: 5), and that would make it hard for the *Non-Member States* to join the Euro-zone.

Are given there analyzes implications of the current global economic crisis for the decision-making mechanism and the interactions among the major players. The analysis explore the possibility that the changes implied and required by the economic crisis may led either to better global governance or even a step closes to the possible, virtual and global government.

Overall theme is treated extensively in governance magazine pages in studies on the E-Government, Security and Liberty in the EU: a role for the national Parliament (Juliet Lodge), are presented *“how in the EU the institutionalization of the norms, practices and procedures of accountability and transparency reflects political and legal values and commitments to sustaining them in ways that are visible, open, just, legitimate and not arbitrary”* (RJE, vol. 9 / 2: 5).

The same subject is treated in the study of governance *“Beyond Connectivity. Future Challenges for e-inclusion policies”* (Radu Gheorghiu, Manuela Unguru). The authors noted that the information society stays at the core of the Lisbon Strategy, despite the dot-com crisis and the still hidden macroeconomic impact of the Information and Communication Technology (ITC). The extreme dynamics of technology sometimes breathtaking whit its promises, poser new challenges for e-inclusion (RJE, vol. 9 / 2: 20-33). Delia M. Costan, in *“The politics of evaluation in the co-financed projects: The Case of the Scottish Executive and the evaluation of the Structural Funds”*, explores the experience of the Scottish Structural Funds evaluation in the context of the various theories and hypothesis expressed in the evaluation literature. Study play a practical example of the good governance (RJE, vol. 9/2: 33-45).

From the same list of discussion around the answers to the challenges of governance of European, courts have selected two articles for this book review. First, Anton Comanescu in his article *“To talk or not to talk? Reflections on Central Bank Communication in time of crisis”* (RJE, Vol.9 / 1, 41-52) noted that central banks around the world seek to enhanced their credibility by effectively communicating their policy goals to the financial markets and the public at large.

The transparency has its challenges, particularly in times of financial turmoil when markets central banks can misinterpret messages. Bogdan Petrica in *“La Differentiation - solution miracle pour l'avenir de l'Union européenne”*, noted that the differences has always accompanied the process of integration and it become more obvious whit the succession of enlargements. Beginning whit the Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice the differentiation is legally enshrined, but it is the work of the Lisbon Treaty.

The dimension of migration is present in RJE studies by Adrian Pop, *“Migration Effects of Romania’s Accessions to the EU: The Case of Moldova”* (RJE, Vol.9 / 1, 73-95) and by Anca Voicu, *“Immigration and Integration Policies in the UK”* (RJE, vol 9 / 2: 71-86). The two studies show both the general aspects of migration and issues involving the specific subjects covered.

These studies, along with the book review of the book entitled *The implication of the EU Membership on immigration trends and immigrant integration policies for the Bulgarian labor market* published at Sofia in 2008, gives an another face to the two magazines numbers that I have read.

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