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Contemporary Challenges to Security Sciences¹

Book review: Daniel Kawa (ed.), *International Security and State Borders*, Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Toruń 2019, pp. 277

International Security and State Borders edited by Daniel Kawa, results from fruitful international cooperation between scientists and scientists-practitioners researching security and border defense. The list of authors from Poland includes representatives of Polish military and civil universities as well as officials in the Polish security system. The Ukrainian authors represent the National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Named after Bohdan Khmelnytskyi.

The book consists of seventeen chapters that address the theoretical and practical aspects of security and the protection of state borders. The volume commences with general reflections on the nature of the security and security sciences research field. In taking into account ontological, epistemological, and methodological perspectives on the subject matter of security, Bogdan B. Szulc critically discusses selected definitions of security to determine its essential features. Students of social sciences will find the discussion useful at a stage of defining and operationalizing security (p. 15). Zbigniew Ścibiorek's contribution introduces relations between security and other theoretical categories such as homeland, citizens and denizens, and civil society (pp. 31, 33). Sławomir Kałuziński presents examples of these relations (p. 52). The introductory chapters are worth reading as complementary since they offer conceptual frameworks and hints inspiring to design social science research.

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Jacek Pawłowski reflects on the identity of security as a new academic discipline. According to the author, in the near future, researchers will concentrate on the phenomena resulting from the transformation and modernization of the national security system (p. 50). National security strategies, planes, and programs determine research challenges that need to be faced by practitioners and academics in cooperation (pp. 48–49). In turn, Jarosław Piątek argues that scholars should draw more attention to innovative and frequently personalized terrorist strategies deriving from the dynamics of globalization, religious, and ideological extremism (p. 77).

As Marian Kowalewski and Joanna Kalecińska emphasize, their chapter presents only a part of the research. They aim to ‘present sources of knowledge enabling the analysis of genesis and conditions for shaping Poland’s military security system in the 21st century’ (p. 78). The authors offer an original typology of knowledge sources which contains (i) the evolution of the military security situation of Poland and Poles in the Westphalian, Viennese, and bipolar system, and (ii) sources from 1989–2005 (p. 79). The typology is a sound starting point for students of the military security systems. However, the authors do not provide references for most of the quoted sources, which may impede work with their report. Although the article presents numerous interesting quotations, they lack expert comments. On the one hand, readers would benefit more from reading the final report based on the whole study rather than only the part. The interpretation of quotations and references to sources would allow the authors to contribute considerably to the international literature on security studies. On the other hand, the fast publication of partial research results may initiate an earlier further development of the field.

Apart from general challenges to security sciences, the volume also discusses more specific issues concerning Poland and Ukraine. In dealing with cybersecurity, Katarzyna Chalubińska-Jentkiewicz describes threats to information and Information and Communication Technologies infrastructure, including their systemic, economic, and socio-cultural scopes (p. 114). Marta Kupryjańczyk touches on the social awareness of terrorism and common anti-terrorist tasks (p. 117). Michał Żak focuses on energy security in Poland and spots a need for studying the possibilities of maximization of energy-saving and domestic sources using, a rise of economy’s energetic efficiency, diversification of energy carriers and energy import, generating reserves of strategic energy carriers, and relations between transit countries exporting energy carriers (pp. 142, 147). The discussion on these challenges would benefit from juxtaposing arguments with Remigiusz Rosicki’s research (e.g., Rosicki, 2015, 2017). It would provide readers with empirical evidence of the changes in energy security.

In drawing upon an original pedagogical experiment, Klavdiia Tushko, Valentina Mirosznichenko, Matsyshyn Mykola, Vadym Dyiak, Liudmyla Borovyk elaborate on the development of the anti-corruption culture of future border guards of Ukraine (p. 211). Olena Volobuieva considers the perspectives for teaching stress management for future law-enforcement leaders (p. 222). Malanchiy Nikolay and Meiko Oleksandr shed light on

the need for reforming the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (p. 258) by determining the evaluation criteria for the work of management with personnel (p. 268), implementing a professional training of staff (p. 268), and law enforcement officials (p. 270). These studies pave the way for practitioners interested in the growth of public service in Ukraine.

Oleh Shynkaruk, Nikolay Lusuy, Yuliia Babii, and Bogdan Evdohovich develop their authorial methodological apparatus for moving objects monitoring on the state border by the radar station (p. 198), which is an answer to the threats on the state border of Ukraine. They offer a method for evaluating the Doppler radar station's detection range, involving natural and climatic factors and the movement of the state border violator (p. 200). This original contribution to the methodology of security sciences is worth empirical verification to assess its analytical efficiency. Also, Kyrylenko Volodymyr, Hluzdan Oleksii, Diachenko Volodymyr, Dziuba Petro, and Zalozh Victor offer a study of implementation value. They suggest how to enhance the efficiency of logistical support of bodies and units of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine at the operational area in the conditions of their separation from the supplies of material and technical resources by developing logistical support (p. 243).

The specific issues of international security discussed by the authors include the debates on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the war. Marek Kulczycki and Małgorzata Polkowska concentrate on the influence of NATO on international security. While Kulczycki scrutinizes selected political decisions of the organization (p. 148), Polkowska comments on its engagement in space and cybersecurity politics (p. 167). Karolina Julia Helnarska and Grzegorz Motrycz remind the history of conflict in Afghanistan and call for reflection if the war has ended (p. 185).

Summing up, *International Security and State Borders* tackles a variety of problems that define the nature of contemporary security sciences. This diversity seems to be vast, but it aptly reflects the range of struggles within the field. Undoubtedly, the book has enriched the publishing series *Securitas et Societas* by defining the analytical challenges to academics and practitioners investigating contemporary security.

References:

- Rosicki, R. (2015). "A new prospect of Poland's gas security". *Zeszyty Naukowe WSB w Poznaniu*, 8(65), 133–148.
- Rosicki, R. (2017). "Poland's energy policy: main problems and forecasts". *Środkowoeuropejskie Studia Polityczne*, 2, 59–87.