

Andrew Heywood, *Global Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan 2011, pp. 560.

The reviewed monograph is divided into 21 chapters: “Introducing Global Politics”, “Historical Context”, “Theories of Global Politics”, “The Economy in a Global Age”, “The State and Foreign Policy in a Global Age”, “Society in a Global Age”, “The Nation in a Global Age”, “Identity, Culture and Challenges to the West”, “Power and Twenty-First Century World Order”, “War and Peace”, “Nuclear Proliferation and Disarmament”, “Terrorism”, “Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention”, “International Law”, “Poverty and Development”, “Global Environmental Issues”, “Gender in Global Politics”, “International Organization and the United Nations”, “Global Governance and the Bretton Woods System”, “Regionalism and Global Politics”, and “Global Futures”. Additionally, a number of other matters are discussed in the book, including the changing nature of power, war and peace, faces of terrorism, and human rights and humanitarian intervention.

In the introduction, A. Heywood precisely defines the term *global politics* as a wide concept, with worldwide, international, subnational, and regional dimensions within its scope. Such multilevel approaches result in the need for using global politics as a term more suitable for understanding the complexity of the post-Cold War international relations (pp. 2–3). The book also includes an analysis of new actors on the world stage, increased interdependence and interconnectedness, and the trend towards global governance, which absolutely justifies using global politics as a term. As the author notices, “global politics encompasses not just politics at the ‘global’ level – that is, worldwide processes, systems and institutional frameworks – but politics at, and, crucially, across *all* levels – the worldwide, the regional, the national and the subnational” (p. XIX).

Similar publications are, for example, “World Politics. The Menu for Choice” (Russett, Starr, & Kinsell, 2006) or “Introduction to Global Politics” (Mansbach & Raffert, 2008). But A. Heywood’s book’s clarity and complexity of the topics presented make it stand out from all the rest.

“Global Politics” has also ordered structure and a rich graphics vesture, handy for memorising important facts, which enhances reading comprehension. It provides a list of key issues and crucial problems at the beginning of every chapter, definitions of terms in margin notes, and carefully selected references to additional bibliography and Internet resources at the end for a deep analysis. Moreover, the problems addressed are viewed from three perspectives: realistic, liberal, and critical. Some terms are deconstructed, including *cold war*, *terrorism*, *war of terror*, *humanitarian intervention*, *nation state*, or *climate change*. For instance, humanitarian intervention is deconstructed as (1) “Describing such interventions as ‘humanitarian’ cloaks them in moral rightfulness and legitimacy. The term ‘humanitarian intervention’ thus contains its own justification: the interventions in question serve the interests of humanity, presumably by reducing suffering and death. (2) ‘Intervention’ refers to various forms of interference in the affairs of others. It therefore conceals the fact that the interventions in question are, by their nature, military actions that involve the use of force and some level of violence. (3) The notion of ‘humanitarian intervention’ may reproduce important power asymmetries... The term thus reinforces the notion of modernization as westernization, even Americanization” (p. 325).

What is more, A. Heywood includes an analysis of both supporters’ and opponents’ opinions on chosen controversial issues, for example, “Does the need to counter terrorism justi-

fy restricting human rights and basic freedoms?" (p. 299). The way that they are approached leads to a better understanding of their complexity.

In the reviewed book, some dates and names are incorrect, for example, the proclamation of Israel's statehood was in 1948, not 1947 (p. 47) or Six-Day War in 1967, not 1968. Such mistakes are sporadic, especially considering the length of "Global Politics" – 560 pages. A more serious one is calling the Czech Republic Czechoslovakia in the context of 2009. Also, when analysing the perceptions and misperceptions in international relations, Heywood makes no direct reference to the fundamental book "Perception and Misperception in International Politics" (Jervis, 1976). It is only referenced in the bibliography.

A. Heywood's monograph is valuable and interesting reading material on contemporary issues, additionally situated within an interdisciplinary framework. It is worthy of note that the way the book has been written inspires further study. The underlined research problems are significant. Heywood's collection of research topics is valuable not only for students, but also for experienced scientists.

"Global Politics" is addressed not only to students pursuing a programme in political science or international relations, but also anyone interested in various aspects of global politics. The book is a rich and valuable source of information and an exciting read. The book also offers a unique opportunity for a better understanding of the complexity of the contemporary world steering through a variety of opinions, attitudes, and approaches, which encourages creative study.

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Anna Wojciuk, *Dylemat potęgi. Praktyczna teoria stosunków międzynarodowych*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa 2010, pp. 286¹.

Owing to the dynamic development of the contemporary scientific discipline of international relations, studies on their theories enjoy growing popularity. It is also the case in Poland. Despite the fact that domestic scholars specializing in international relations have not brought many original theoretical concepts to the field, systematic attempts to interpret international phenomena can be observed. In numerous cases, they are based on more or less popular views of American researchers, which constitutes a considerable flaw for some scholars. In 2010, the relatively modest, albeit constantly expanded achievements in this field on the Polish publishing markets were complemented with Anna Wojciuk's book entitled: "Dylemat potęgi. Praktyczna teoria stosunków międzynarodowych" ("Dilemma of power. A practical theory of international relations"). It is the first Polish publication which made an attempt at a holistic presentation of such notions as power, force and authority. The author analyses their importance through the prism of selected concepts of international relations – which are often erroneously called theories (it is a mental shortcut repeated in nu-

¹ *Dilemma of power. Practical theory of international relations*, Warsaw University Publishing House.