

the arguments of specialists in the field regarding the impact that culture might have generally. The chapter focuses on culture, and principally on how it interferes with the whole pedantic process of negotiations. In other words, a wide range of variables are presented that could influence communication between cultures, and in this respect, the cleavages that might occur in the process. Just as importantly, this last chapter is an academic infiltration into different civilizations to help the reader put together a series of guidelines, rituals, and customs to which a negotiator should pay regard.

Given the above information, the book makes a special contribution to the academic community and enriches the literature in the sphere of international negotiations. The scientific contributions that the author has included in this volume are of great academic importance. The book allows us to discover the negotiation process and analyze various techniques and case studies in addition to the profile of the negotiator. Moreover, the style chosen to present all of the aforementioned information facilitates the learning process and stimulates knowledge.

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LIVIU-VASILE ȘERBAN

MELANIA-GABRIELA CIOT, ed.

Uniunea Europeană și Sistemul Internațional (Începutul secolului XXI)

(The European Union and the international system: The beginning of 21st century)

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THE PANDEMIC has made us aware of the role that epistemic communities play in society, as many of the decisions of political leaders during this period started

with pertinent views from these epistemic communities. From this point of view, the epistemic community in the field of International Relation and European Studies has begun to take shape in Romania through the contribution of the scientific papers of the academic environment and especially of the doctoral schools.

Thus, the field of International Relation and European Studies in Romania has been approached by several reputable universities from the Universitaria Consortium, which contribute to the development and promotion of scientific results in the field through scientific events and publications. One of these scientific events was the National Conference of Doctoral Students from the Universitaria Consortium, which was organized by Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, for several fields of study. For the field of International Relations and European Studies, the academic event was organized by the European Paradigm Doctoral School, and it brought together over 40 Ph.D. candidates and researchers from the doctoral schools at the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, the University of Bucharest, West University of Timișoara, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, and last but not least from Babeș-Bolyai University. The contributions of the epistemic community gathered together in Cluj-Napoca were disseminated through the publication of this collective volume.

Edited by Prof. Melania-Gabriela Ciot, the volume presented here is and will certainly remain a point of reference for the Romanian epistemic community in the field of International Relations and European Studies, which required a deep reflection of some events—past, but especially present—that marked the European Union and the International System in general.

This is the third volume that Melania-Gabriela Ciot brings to the attention of the

academic community, and it includes the concerns of the young generation of researchers in the field of International Relations and European Studies, felt during the health crisis, reflecting, in fact, the society's concerns for a better adaptation of the leadership to daily challenges.

The volume, the result of a scientific communication session, proposes to the public a series of analyses of the most pressing issues on the European and global agenda. This scientific approach includes twenty contributions that aim to deepen the main topics discussed during the scientific event. At first glance, the volume covers a wide range of topics in the field of International Relations and European Studies, and this diverse nature of the contributions attests to the multitude of perspectives and ways in which topics can be debated and interpreted.

The scientific papers comprised in this volume address a wide variety of interests related to the European and global scenes, in an international, national or regional context faced with significant obstacles. The current context finds the European Union in a process of reconstruction, relaunch, of regaining the role of actor in the global system. In fact, the international system is still in the process of reconstruction, trying to reach a balance of power (pp. 9–10).

The volume begins with a succinct foreword, in which are transposed some assessments of the coordinator of the volume, regarding both the future of the European Union and the international system in general, and the role and contribution of epistemic communities in the field of International Relations and European Studies. Also, the editor makes some assessments regarding the role that the university environment has in shaping, at academic and societal level, the developmental trajectory of young researchers.

Due to the great number of works included in the volume, we may identify three main themes that are organized according to the central subject of the analyzed texts: "Epistemic Communities and Crisis Management," "Concerns in the Debate on the Future of Europe," and "Restructuring the International System in the 21st Century."

The first section, as the title suggests, refers to "epistemic communities and crisis management," in the past and in the present, both nationally and internationally. The section summarizes a series of researches on the historical past of Romania and analyzes concepts such as populism, democracy, alternative culture or indoctrination. Other topics that it addresses include the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, the Ottoman legislative influences in nowadays Turkey, and last but not least, economic policies, economic intelligence and national competitiveness (pp. 11–98).

Regarding the second section, this presents the future of the European Union, which is quite uncertain, mainly due to the unexpected development of the external factors that this structure is facing, but also to the political decisions that seem to take precedence over the unsuccessful rounds of negotiations between the heads of the Member States. The current context finds the European Union in a process of reconstruction, the European leadership seeking to position the European Union as a global leader through the European Green Deal and to promote a new way of life, with a climate diplomacy present in multilateral international interactions. Moreover, the image of the moment presents the EU debate on the management of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has definitely marked both the Member States and activities at European level, imposing radical economic and social decisions. Last but not least, this section discusses the future of the

European Union in terms of the Common Security and Defense Policy and in terms of Trade Policy (pp. 9–10, 99–258).

The last section brings to light researches on topics or concepts such as security (military or human), cyber warfare–hybrid warfare or secularization. It also develops a discussion on the political or economic cooperation between states, more precisely, China’s role in Congo’s economic activities, and the political relationship between Romania and Ukraine. Another interesting topic refers to “peripheral individuals,” marginalized or alienated peripheral populations, from a political, social, cultural and even religious point of view (pp. 259–346).

The coordinator of the volume submits to the attention of the academic community a volume written in Romanian, among the few written in Romanian at national level. As specified, the papers of the conference, as well as the scientific papers, were drawn up in Romanian, precisely to support a clearer outline of the specialized language, specific to the field of International Relations and European Studies in Romania. This adds value to the volume because it makes available to the scientific community a series of researches with as many adaptations as possible specific to our cultural environment, and with few sterile takeovers, which are often not translated into Romanian, and thus devoid of content.

The scientific papers included in the volume are clear and insightful, impartial research papers, that go beyond the subjectivity of many researches. The detached approach of the authors, characterized by a

well-defined analytical spirit, reveals at the same time a critical spirit well anchored in time. At the same time, it is impossible not to remark the complex descriptive skills of the authors, as well as the superior interpretative level of the whole analysis. The volume has many qualities, and in addition to those already listed, we will add the qualitative or quantitative research methods used, the clarity of discourse, the appropriate and balanced language, qualities difficult to find in many scientific papers focused on International Relations and European Studies.

The volume also contains explanatory notes, an extended bibliography and an extremely useful index. This exquisite volume will be very useful to professors, researchers, students and Ph.D. candidates in International Relations and European Studies, History, Law, Diplomacy, and to the general public. All readers will be able to learn more about the European and international agenda.

The excellent volume edited by Prof. Melania-Gabriela Ciot impresses not only by the richness and novelty of the information transmitted to the academic community, but also by the quality and accuracy of the texts included in the volume or by the acumen with which they were selected. Given the scientific research that the volume summarizes, we can consider this volume to be circumscribed to events taking place under the auspices of the Conference on the Future of the European Union.

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