

**Getnet Tamene:**

*Modern International Relations and World Politics:  
Compendium*

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Reviewed by Radoslav Štefančík

The publication by Getnet Tamene outlines a theme, which is thus far very rare on the Slovak book market. Over the last two decades, concerning this rare theme, in Slovakia as compared to other states, one discovers only a few publications of Slovak origin or Central and Eastern European origin at all. The publication under discussion appears to have emanated from the most current literatures in the field of international relations and world politics. It reflects a contemporary level of solutions to current fundamental issues of international relations and world politics. The text is structured into logically interconnected and coherent parts that project one of the possible ways of organizing the book. It gives an integrated picture.

Furthermore, the publication tends to reflect the actual challenges of in-

ternational relations, concerning, for instance, contemporary theories of international relations, conflicts, actors, states and their statutes in the international environment, including questions of integration, international law and international organizations. It attempts to analyze contemporary world politics and characterize attributes of 21st century international relations.

The publication is designed, for the most part, for the students of the social sciences and primarily for students of the political sciences, but it can also be enrichment to those, who deal with issues of international relations and current world politics. I highly rate the section of the text on pages 31–36, where the author ushers in the contradictory nature with regard to the dominance of the Anglo-American tradition in the theories

of international relations. A prominent position of one language is, at the same time, the fatal weakness of this discipline.

The book, *Moderné medzinárodné vzťahy a svetová politika: Stručný prehľad*, introduces a body of text, whose content witnesses a broad capacity of the author regarding contemporary theories that are related to this area of study. It is evident though, through the prism of the publication that the author has long term experience in dealing with issues of international relations. The author has carefully demonstrated his professionalism and deep interest in the field, which is proof for his long academic career in various institutions including: the University of Matthias Bel in Banská Bystrica, the University of St. Cyril and Metodius in Trnava, City University in Bratislava, the University of Alexander Dubček in Trenčín, as well as, contributions to several other domestic and foreign academic centers.

The publication presents, in a way, an original work in the Slovakia's environment. It deals, among others, with parts of pivotal themes, which are currently discussed among specialists of international relations, politicians, in the media, academia and those who make foreign policy. The work includes an analysis by the author and at the same time brings important views of generally accepted experts, who specialize in each particular problem. Personally, I appraise the author for devoting himself to areas that are not included in the Slovak environment among "mainstream" analysts at

the present time. This refers to issues as, for example, feminism, green politics and the like. He also logically encompasses inescapable pivotal categories of the discipline such as actors, power, international law, international relations theory, etc.

The whole work is divided into four coherent chapters. In chapter one the author presents how the discipline of International Relations was originated and developed. He points out the first works, concepts, schools and institutions that have devoted themselves to the problems of development and further expansion of the international relations discipline. While indicating the weak sides of the discipline, the first chapter elaborates challenges the discipline has faced as a component part of other social sciences. Because the author is active in Slovakia, the publication may seem to have been designed primarily for Slovak readers. Nevertheless, in this section of the publication, it is evident that the author encompasses the Czech Republic as well as the rest of Central and Eastern European regions regarding the inclusion of scholars' names, publications and places.

Key concepts such as system, actors, hegemony, anarchy, peace, globalization, justice, stability, etc. make up the content of the second chapter. Here the author ushers in very important concepts that appear in the text and he classifies these concepts into three easily discernible and comprehensible categories: structural concepts, concepts denoting control and those denoting quality of life.

The third, content-wise demanding and in terms of information profoundly

rich chapter, presents the theories of international relations (realism, liberalism, English school, Marxist theory, critical theory, postmodernist theory, etc.) and their views toward fundamental problems that are being discussed within the scope of the discipline. The author presents not only the views of each concept, but also brings to the discussion polemics of other schools together with the stand point of each of the theories.

The last chapter is devoted to actual issues of international relations and to the author's view about these issues. In this section, the author attempts to answer important questions that we often pose about the future (e.g. Are states survivors? Or will our global economy replace geopolitics?). Since the book under discussion was published at the very beginning of the 21. century, the closing chapter leaves wider room for analysis

of various possible scenarios, which will probably arise in plenty in the broad future concerning the further development of international relations in this century.

The present publication by Getnet Tamene, *Moderné medzinárodné vzťahy a svetová politika: Stručný prehľad*, is undoubtedly a valuable contribution. It will certainly enrich everyone, who shows an interest in international relations. The author did not intend only to summarizing facts that have already been published, but he rather enriched the subject with his own views and ideas (mostly critical) that are in some cases provocative and generate polemic, as they do not always fit into mainstream ideas. This, however, is not a fault, just to the contrary – because such dialogue is able to only help the development of international relations as a scientific discipline.