

schemes (s. 261, 264-5). This contribution is organically supported by the chapter presented by Ilonszki. While Fink-Hafner stresses the theory, Ilonski mainly focuses on the research methodology, the questions, and the instruments used and preferred in the analysis of Europeanisation processes in Hungary.

Generally evaluated, the volume Landmark 1989 offers a multidisciplinary analysis of selected issues related to the changes after the democratic transition. The analysis mostly includes only post-Communist EU-member states; in two instances, the Ukraine and Russian cases are analysed, but not EU-membership candidate states, such as Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, or Albania. In this way, the selection of countries analysed does not meet the most important result of Merkel's falsification, stated in his introduction. The absented countries and societies in the analysis could, and should include East Germany. Many social scientists in Germany, at the moment, feel the dramatic absence of comparative studies in Central and Eastern Europe, including the former German Democratic Republic. If the book had included both the East Germany and South Eastern European countries, we could indicate it as very important; with the absence of chapter analyses focusing on selected issues in these countries, we must evaluate this book only as being very useful.

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Thomas J. Volgy, Zlatko Šabič,
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Mapping the New World Order
Wiley-Blackwell, Malden and
Oxford 2009, pp. 296, € 27.60
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There is no doubt that the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the Soviet Union marked a new era in international relations. This is a statement which is on the one hand straightforward, for the appearance of a new post-Cold War world is fact, yet on the other more complex, for it carries with it the need to define that which is 'new' in international politics. It could well seem that the new era will be accompanied by a new quality in international relations, one which powerfully remodels that which was, forming a new contemporary architecture in international politics.

Is the appearance of a new era indeed synonymous with the appearance of a new international order? If so, how does this differ from that which existed previously? What might be the consequences of the new international structure for those international matters of greatest significance?

It is these and other fundamental questions relating to the nature of contemporary international relations which Thomas J. Volgy and his colleagues attempt to answer in their

latest book *Mapping the New World Order*. Grappling with problems of definition (e.g. that of the region) and problems methodological in nature (differences in approach to the material being studied), the authors have presented a thorough analysis of one element among those making up the international order – international governmental organizations (IGOs). While the authors are of course aware that an analysis focused on only one part of this multidimensional global structure is subject to certain limitations, and do call for further research toward the creation of a more coherent picture of the contemporary world, they justify their choice most appropriately, by the great explanatory power of IGOs in understanding and assessing the changing nature of international relations.

What goals do the authors of the book set for themselves? Two chief tasks may be identified, tasks mutually dependent. Above all the authors attempt to answer the question of why it is that states agree to accede to international organizations, and to active participation in them, given the fact that often (not always) this is linked at least partially with loss of sovereign rights. In connection with this, are they willing and ready to honour commitments resulting from membership of IGOs and from other agreements of a more informal nature? Finally comes the question of whether it is possible to identify patterns of participation in these organizations, along with that of the influ-

ence which international governmental organizations exert on member states, and whether the scope of this influence alters together with changing global conditions.

These are but some of the questions which the authors have attempted to answer. Of most significance, from the point of view of both the book as a whole and the individual chapters, is finding an answer to one in particular, of whether the system of global IGOs characteristic of the Cold War period has altered in the post-Cold War period. If it has altered, in what manner? What are the consequences of this (new?) order for human rights, conflict amelioration and cooperation with regard to international waters?

Setting the research questions and both offering and testing possible responses (hypotheses) led to rather surprising conclusions: the post-Cold War era in international relations brought neither a new global order nor any new form of strengthened management. Of the results presented by the authors of the study this is only a small part.

The book is carefully drafted in respect of both substance and methodology, despite the distinct differences of which the authors write in the introduction to the work. It is required reading for students of international relations, who will receive an outstanding study comparing the constellations of global intergovernmental organizations in the post-war architecture of international relations.