

***Book Review*****Vasile Pușcaș, *MANAGING GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCIES*****Eikon, Cluj-Napoca, 2010, 288 p.*****Oana Cristina POPA***

In '*Managing Global Interdependencies*', professor Vasile Pușcaș, Romania's former chief negotiator with the EU (2000-2004) and former Minister for European Affairs in the Romanian Government (2008-2009), combines elements from his foreign policy and European integration work, with those from his academic and cultural experience which he has acquired in over 30 years of practice. Thus, he gives us a complex perspective on the decision-making process in a complex and multifaceted environment.

At present we live in an interdependent world on all levels, situation which made the political and diplomatic actions adapt to the new context of our times. International diplomacy and international affairs had to be redefined due to those interdependencies. Globalization shows that in such conditions the state cannot function any longer as a self-standing entity. This brought about the end of isolationism.

Globalization took place abruptly in some cases, while in others it had disastrous effects. The end of the Cold War and 9/11 are just among the most spectacular examples in this respect. On the other hand, if we speak about the effects of global warming and climate change, which 20 years ago were not even present on the agenda of international diplomacy, while today they are top priorities, we may say that globalization also had some positive effects overall.

In this global and interdependent context, traditional diplomatic demarches do not apply anymore and it becomes necessary and indispensable to extent international communication to other levels such as culture and education. The so called “soft” political aspects can oftentimes be approached through “second track” diplomatic means. Those new elements play an essential role at all stages of communication, regardless if we speak about local, national, regional or international.

An essential element in this regard is the rise of the European Union as a global actor on the world stage. The EU is a dual entity. Through its unity, it has determined member states to make a joint front internationally, but at the same time through its diverse nature it has determined them to stand up and promote the integration of their individual specific cultural values in the global system. As a consequence, in international cooperation and diplomacy, states must not only tolerate each other but must “talk” to one another, work with one another and identify together common solutions for their common problems.

Vasile Pușcaș develops those ideas on the course of four large chapters each divided in a wide array of smaller subchapters: ‘The Management of Global Interdependencies’, ‘The European Union and Global Interdependence’, ‘Managing the Regionalization and Globalization and Culture’, ‘History and the International Management’.

The book enjoys the foreword of Mr. Mark C. Donfried, director of the prestigious Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin.