

## International Relations Theory

In the first volume of the book *International Relations Theory* the author examines the development as well as the main theoretical perspectives in the study and analysis of international relations which is unique for the Bulgarian bibliography in this volume and consistency. The initial part, which is especially useful for the students studying political science and international relations, discusses the nature of political research and approaches to acquire new knowledge. It is clarified when, how and under what circumstances the International Relations Science becomes an independent discipline within the social sciences and what are the main thematic areas, object of teaching and analysis in the academic courses in International Relations. An overview of the meta-theoretical debates in political science and International Relations Science is made, the issues of the nature of International Relations Science, the functions of the Theory of International Relations as well as the types of theories of international relations and the different types of analytical tools are clarified.

This volume of the book focuses on the main competing theories of international relations. The author clarifies comprehensively in comparative terms the historically dominant **traditional macro**-theoretical approaches to analysis in the International Relations Science. The theoretical frameworks of *realism and neorealism, liberalism and neoliberalism*, based on the ideas and approaches of positivism and rationalism in the social sciences, are clarified. For the first time in Bulgarian literature, the *radical* theoretical perspectives for studying the international relations related to Marxism as well as their further development within the framework of the *critical theory* of international relations, are critically and extensively discussed. The issues of *international political economy*, based on an eclectic palette of theoretical approaches, methodologies and ontologies, are also considered. Having in mind the chronology of discipline development the book is focused on the **first and third debates** in International Relations Science.

In the second volume, Prof. Gochev is a scientific editor and main author who wrote half of the chapters. Most of the authors in this volume are researchers and lecturers from universities in the United States and the European Union. **New alternative macro**-theories in the International Relations Science have been studied. Unlike the political *realism, liberalism, and radicalism* standing on the positions of *rationalism / positivism*, since 1980 most of the new theoretical perspectives in the International Relations Science have taken the position of *reflectivism*, rejecting the *positivism* as a method of analysis — e.g., *post-positivism, post-structuralism*, and to great extent *constructivism*. The scientific editor has emphasized on the best developed alternative macro-theories of international relations which are not analyzed in detail in the Bulgarian International Relations science - *constructivism, English school and postmodernism / post-structuralism*. From the point of view of the chronology of the International Relations Science development, Volume 2 of the book focuses on the **second and fourth** debates in International Relations Science. It should be noted the detailed discussion of the behaviorist school by the International Relations Science - what can be learned about the international relations and how it can be done as this analysis is unique in Bulgarian bibliography and it is undoubtedly useful for both practitioners and students studying international relations and world politics.

The book also shows how some *medium-sized (meso)theories* in the International Relations Science arise on the basis of research in other scientific disciplines adapted to the problems of international relations. It includes the *feminist and green* theory in the political science and International Relations Science. In particular, *gender* issues in the international relations have so far not been considered independently in such a scope either in Bulgarian or foreign literature.

Another area examined in Volume 2 is the *special (private)* theories and approaches used in the international relations analysis. The importance of *psychological theories* for the analysis of the international relations is discussed. The psychological approach makes it possible to reveal some additional features of the structural, economic and cultural conditions in which the processes of world politics take place. *The Foreign policy theories* are also analyzed. The Theory of International Relations is considered as a more general category compared to the Foreign Policy Theory. The main contribution of the Foreign Policy Theory to the International Relations Science, mentioned in the book, is that in addition to factors at the system level, the Foreign Policy Theory also considers the influence of actors at the *individual and national level of analysis* which is especially useful for practitioners and scholars in the field of international relations and world politics.

The final part of the book analyzes a series of theories and approaches related to *competition and cooperation* in the international relations. Issues of integration theories, geopolitics, the role of alliances and the balance of power as well as the importance and functions of international organizations as an emanation of international cooperation after the end of World War II are also included. Most of the foreign authors in this volume are established researchers and lecturers at leading universities in Europe and the United States as they reveal lesser-known aspects of international relations and foreign policy in Bulgaria.