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INVITATION TO READ. REVIEW

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Book: "The Influence of International Law on Contemporary Geopolitics"

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Abstract

The paper "The Influence of International Law on Contemporary Geopolitics", developed by Dr. Chițu Alexandru-Cristinel is the result of documentary and research efforts carried out by the author during the internship of the doctoral thesis with the same title in the field "Law" in 2019.

Publication of the doctoral thesis at the "Top Form" publishing house proves the author's intention to provide society with more information on the relationship between international law and contemporary geopolitics.

The paper has a complex, interdisciplinary character, bringing together elements of international law, economic law, political science and geopolitics, being based on extensive documentation.

Keywords:

geopolitics; international law; geopolitical stakes; diplomacy; international conflicts

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The paper deals with a topical issue and public interest, given that contemporary geopolitical changes and the diversification of types of international threats, require an in-depth analysis of the role of international law on geopolitical decisions.

The volume is addressed to “urbi et orbi”, because geopolitical mutations affect us all equally, in the context of the transformations of the contemporary era, characterized by the interdependencies in the process of globalization and the challenges facing the international society.

In the paper, the author starts from analyzing the events that led to international conflicts from both a geopolitical and international law perspective, to identify the causes that led to their outbreak, in order to develop mechanisms and strategies to prevent them.

The main purpose of the paper is to develop ways and methods to prevent the outbreak of other regional or global conflicts and to "establish geopolitical relations on the basis of law."

Contemporary geopolitical evolutions are presented in an analytical-synthetic manner, the author achieving a scientific interdependence of theoretical and practical aspects. Thus, starting from theoretical to applied, from international to national, the paper aims to:

- to identify a theoretical framework for the geopolitical-international law relationship;
- to highlight the main geopolitical developments of the contemporary era;
- to analyze the place and perspectives of Romania in the current geopolitical context.

The methodology of elaboration of the paper consists in the adequate use of the research methods, respectively: the logical method of legal research; the historical method of analysis of international law; analysis and synthesis; induction and deduction.

The author, proving an in-depth knowledge of the dynamics of the evolution of international geopolitics, captures the characteristics of the current stage of development of the international society marked by the hegemonic trend of globalization.

The research undertaken by the author involved the permanent reporting to the contemporary geopolitical context, by highlighting the profound changes registered at international level.

The scientific novelty of the research results from the fact that the issue analyzed in the thesis has not benefited so far from a homogeneous, systematic and sustainable approach in the literature. From this perspective, the following novelty aspects can be considered:

- analyzing the relations between states based on the correlation between geopolitics and international law;
- analyzing the motivations of "international actors" that led to the geopolitical redesign of the world;
- analysis of different types of actors at international level;
- proposing concrete solutions on global geopolitical developments, based on the rules of international law;

The fundamental bibliography underlying the thesis presents an adequate degree of topicality. The bibliographic material used includes a multitude of general works, specialized works, dictionaries, encyclopedias, collections of documents, as well as international documents.

The paper is structured in six chapters, followed by final conclusions and bibliographical references.

1) In the first chapter - *Geopolitics and international law*, the author analyzes the conceptual evolution of the notion of geopolitics, as well as the role of international law in resolving geopolitical crises. In this context, the author starts from the analysis of the concept of geopolitics, later developing aspects on the interests of subjects of international law, as well as the causes of global geopolitical changes (identifying in this framework the main geopolitical interests and stakes).

The author analyzes the main features of international law, emphasizing its role and importance in global geopolitical developments.

2) In the second chapter - *Geopolitical developments after World War II*, the author detailed the geopolitical developments after the end of World War II, which represented the key moments in the evolution of geopolitics and international law, respectively:

- The geopolitical context of the Yalta Conference;
- The Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine;
- Berlin Blockade and the North Atlantic Alliance;
- The Korean War;
- The Warsaw Pact and the Hungarian Revolution;
- Space Race and the Berlin Crisis;
- The crisis in Cuba and the war in Vietnam;
- End of the Cold War (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties; Mikhail Gorbachev's Reforms; Dissolution of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact).

I appreciate the fact that the author does not limit himself only to the presentation of the main moments of the evolution of world geopolitics, but also analyzes the relationship between the New World Order and international law.

The author considers that it is necessary to place geopolitical relations on the basis of law, "by changing the functioning of the United Nations Security Council to eliminate the veto right of the 5 founding members and increase the number of permanent and non-permanent members" (p. 152).

3) The third chapter - *Contemporary geopolitical developments and the growing role of international law*, is devoted to analyzing the gaps in international law in resolving geopolitical disputes. In this context, the author highlights the violation of the rules of international law in the conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, Israel, the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia and the coup in Turkey.

4) In Chapter 4, *The European Union and the United States of America, a report on cooperation for stability and peace*, the author analyzes the "historic" relationship of cooperation between the United States and the European Union, identifying possible relations between them, starting from the existing partnership.

Combining the experience of the European Union and the ability of the United States to impose its will, the author analyzed the dynamics of partnerships to identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as the existing cooperative relations between the European Union and the United States.

The aim pursued by the author through this approach was to identify the ways in which the two subjects of international law can contribute to the observance of international law on the international stage.

5) In Chapter 5, *Romania in the current geopolitical context*, the author analyzes the Romanian nation from a geopolitical point of view, emphasizing the dynamics of partnerships that Romania has with the United States (Strategic Partnership), the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance, after the fall Iron Curtain.

Following an in-depth analysis by the author, the conclusion of increasing Romania's role as a key player in the region can be deduced.

Based on the analyzes made, the author concludes that the only solution to avoid global conflicts, as well as to strengthen cooperation at all levels, between all geopolitical actors, is to reform the United Nations, in order to fulfill its missions of guarantor of: world peace, respect for human rights, international cooperation and respect for international law.

6) In Chapter 6, *Conclusions and proposals* - the author expresses the necessary conclusions in order to develop mechanisms and strategies to prevent international conflicts.

The personal imprint of the author results from the formulation of proposals for streamlining international law, consisting in amending the UN Charter, respectively:

- the abolition of the veto right of the permanent members of the Security Council;
- supplementing the number of permanent members from 5 to 19 states;
- the redistribution of the 10 terms of non-permanent members, elected for 2 years, so that there is an equal representation between the rich and the poor continents and taking into account an equitable geographical distribution;
- maintain the two-thirds voting system for both permanent and non-permanent members.

The final conclusions of the thesis are the need to streamline international law in order to respond to illicit tendencies to influence world geopolitics. In this sense, the proposals formulated by the doctoral student are pertinent and useful, meant to lead to the increase of the efficiency of the international law in the solution of the regional and global conflicts.

I appreciate that the scientific approach analyzed provides the basic framework for possible further in-depth research and updating, the topic being quite broad in the field.

Given the aspects presented above, I invite you to read!

References

Chițu, A.-C. (2021). *Influența dreptului internațional asupra geopoliticii contemporane* [The influence of international law on contemporary geopolitics]. Top Form.