

# ROMANIAN DIPLOMACY AND EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICS

edited by Dr. Maria Costea, Iasi: Institutul European, 2019. 252 pp. ISBN 978-606-24-0238-9

REVIEWED BY DR. NICOLETA VASILCOVSCHI

LECTURER FOR INTERNATIONAL SINO-CANADIAN PROGRAM, SHANDONG, CHINA  
PHD ECONOMICS LECTURER (COLLABORATOR) WITH "STEFAN CEL MARE" UNIVERSITY,  
SUCEAVA, ROMANIA  
NICOLETA.VASILCOVSCHI@USM.RO

**D**iplomatic activities and geopolitical interests are shaped by the fast global changes and challenges of international relations.

The book under review, *Romanian Diplomacy and European Geopolitics*, edited by Dr Maria Costea, includes a complex set of historical analyzes of different authors, scholars and diplomats, from Europe and Asia.

This volume is published in Romanian language<sup>1</sup> and promotes valuable interpretations of the diplomatic, historical, geopolitical and economic subjects of the European and the world's transformations during the contemporary history.

This volume is dedicated to the great Romanian historian Viorica Moisuc and to her contributions to the research in the field of international relations' history and geopolitics. Therefore, the in the book's introduction, Dr. Maria Costea and Dr. Simion Costea<sup>2</sup> present the role of the historian Viorica Moisuc concerning the development of international relations' history and geopolitical studies in Romania. Then, Professor Dr Ion Calafeteanu describes his work with Professor Dr. Viorica Moisuc, in Romania and abroad, showing different patterns that they followed to providing authentic research concerning Romanian history. Professor Dr. Viorica Moisuc has guided many scholars, with her knowledge, and her authentic historical research, to develop new scientific contributions to the history of international relations.

The first part of this volume, *Romanian Diplomacy and Geopolitics Dynamics in the first half of 20th century*, presents different aspects of Romanian diplomacy during World War I and World War II, including seven chapters, written by Dr. Virgil Coman, Dr. Constantin Iordan, Dr. Maria Costea, Dr. Carmen Irene Atanasiu, Dr. Constantin Cheramidoglu, Dr Nechita Runcan, and Dr. Valentin Ciorbea. Their studies analyze the particularities of the Romanian diplomatic relations during that period.

<sup>1</sup> Maria Costea, (ed.), *Diplomatia Romaniei si geopolitica europeana*, Iasi, Institutul European, 2019. 252 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Costea, Simion; Michel Labori, *Le Management des Politiques de l'Union Européenne/ The Management of EU Policies*, PARIS, Ed Prodifmultimedia, 2011; Costea, Simion, *Ideea europeană și interesele statelor/ The European Issue and the States' Interests*, Cluj-Napoca, Napoca Star, 2005; Costea, Simion, *România și Proiectul Briand de Uniune Europeană, /Romania and the Briand Project of European Union*, Targu-Mures, Petru Maior University Press, 2004; Costea, Simion (coord.), *Culture, Elites and European Integration, Volume IV – International Relations and European Union Interdisciplinary Studies* (Preface - dr. Nicolae Paun), PARIS, Editions Prodifmultimedia, 2011; Costea, Simion; Costea, Maria (coord.), *Integrarea României in UE: provocări și perspective/ Romania's Accession to the EU: Challenges and Perspectives*, Iași, European Institute, 2007; Costea, Simion (coord.), *For a Stronger and Wider European Union*, Cluj-Napoca, Napoca Star, 2005; Natea Mihaela Daciana, „Politica de diplomație publică între comunicare și manipulare”, in *Elite politice și securitatea națională a României*, Natea Mihaela Daciana, et. all (coord.) Ed ProUniversitaria, 2018, Natea Mihaela Daciana, *Communication through Digital Diplomacy and the Impact over National Security*, Luminița Chirean, Cristian Lako, Cristina Nicolae (coord.), *Humanities in the Spotlight*, Lambert Publishing, pp. 188-194

The second part of this volume, *Romanian Diplomacy during the Cold War. Significant Moments in Promotion of an Independence Policy*, includes the articles of Dr. Cezar Stanciu and Dr. Traian Hristea. The first one presents the Romanian position during the Cold War and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of the Nuclear Weapons. The second includes a description of the Romanian diplomacy during the negotiations with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), showing its particularities in 1975, the author pointing out here important aspects of the Romanian unique diplomacy called "the human dimension" in Europe, "before and after Helsinki" (Traian Hristea, p. 159).

The third part of this volume, *Diplomacy and Geopolitics Interests in the Multi-polar International System*, includes new contributions of Dr. Traian Hristea, Dr. Andreea Paula Ibănescu and Dr. Dorel Bușe. They describe new aspects of Romania's diplomacy to the OSCE, and show different interests from Iran, Russia and Turkey in the area of Caucasus.

The fourth part of the volume, *Identity Conflicts, State Institutional Construction and Economic Diplomacy in the Contemporary International System*, includes the contributions of Catinca Onescu, Dr. Mihaela Osorio and Dr. Nicoleta Vasilcovschi. This section starts from a presentation of Lebanon's Geopolitics, continues with the analysis of the historical changes in Bosnia, between 1914 and 2014, and ends with a analysis of the global role of the Economic Diplomacy in the 21th century.

The book's chapters are organized in a chronological order, starting from different aspects of the World War I and World War II, that impacted Romanian diplomacy, and continuing with analyzes of Romanian Diplomacy during the Cold War. The third and the fourth parts of this volume outline different methods used to promote diplomatic and geopolitical aspects in a global challenging context. The third part insists on the role of Romanian diplomacy in Central Asia, and the changes after the Cold War of the geopolitical interests of Turkey, Iran, and Russia in the Caucasus. Then, the fourth section starts with valuable details about the Lebanon's geopolitics and international security problems, continuing with a short description of the historical challenges of Bosnia Herzegovina, between 1914 and 2014, and with a presentation of the strategic content of the economic diplomacy of the 21st-century, and its importance in the global context. The different decisions made over the time in the diplomatic and geopolitical contexts are analyzed. Seven chapters are included in the first section, proving a focus on history, while the last three sections, together, are consisting of seven other chapters, focused mainly on geopolitics and economic diplomacy. In the "Argument" of the book, the historian Maria Costea provides a complete explanation for each section, helping future readers to discover relevant aspects of each chapter.

In conclusion, this volume honors the great Romanian historian, Viorica Moisiuc, following and further developing major directions of her research. A captivating approach can be identified in this volume concerning the presentation of general aspects of diplomacy with particularities of Romanian diplomacy, and a description of the strategic geopolitical games played by different countries.

This book can be explored by all researchers that are looking to find an analyses of Romania's diplomatic relations, the structure of geopolitical interests in Europe and worldwide, and the role of the economic diplomacy in shaping global decisions nowadays.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> See also Maria Costea, Simion Costea (eds.), *Diplomație și actori geopolitici în epoca interdependenței complexe* [Diplomacy and geopolitical actors in the age of complex interdependence], Cluj-Napoca, Ed. Napoca Star, 2021.