

Jacques Maritain, *Omul și statul*, Ed. Institutul European, Iași, 2008. Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare Strøm, Russell J. Dalton, *Politica comparată astăzi: cadru teoretic*, Ed. Institutul European, Iași, 2009.

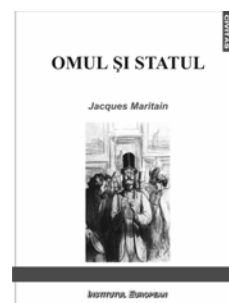
Joseph H. H. Weiler, *Constituția Europei*, Ed. Polirom, Iași, 2009. Barry Buzan, Richard Little, *Sistemele internaționale în istoria lumii: Reconfigurarea studiului relațiilor internaționale*, Ed. Polirom, Iași, 2009.

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The fields of Political Science, International Relations and European Studies are among the most “transnational” ones in contemporary social science, and their students and practitioners are expected to be familiar with English, the current *lingua franca* in the profession. However, the volume and quality of translations should be a sign of pride and a measure of efficiency for a national scientific community. In a democratic era, one has the right to know more about the fundamentals of his or her political environment – a right to theory – and translations are quite helpful in this respect. As far as teaching is concerned, students need access to relevant works in their own language: this helps understanding and stimulates reflection. Last but not least, translations are quite helpful when researchers face institutional and financial difficulties in terms of access to foreign-language scientific contributions. Such arguments are obviously relevant for Romania, and one must welcome the fact that several national publishing houses have developed strong and ambitious programs of translation in Political Science and other related fields of inquiry.

To begin with, students of Political Theory should welcome the translation of Jacques Maritain’s *Man and the State* [*Omul și statul*], published by Editura Institutul European, in Iași. So far, Catholic political theory, at least in its contemporary form, has not received the attention one would have expected, in Romania. However, with the translation of this work, this body of theorizing should become more prominent in the normatively-oriented debates, both inside and outside the academia. It should also open the way for new translations and also for original research, since its topic of inquiry takes the reader to some central issues in political philosophy: sovereignty, the state, democracy, and the role of the Church in a free society. Of course, one should not forget that Maritain’s views are extremely important for understanding the moral and intellectual journey of Christian democracy as a political doctrine, in Europe and beyond.

Institutul European – Iași also had the initiative to translate *Comparative Politics Today: A Theoretical Framework* [*Politica comparată astăzi: cadru teoretic*], by Gabriel A. Almond, G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Kaare Strøm, and Russell J. Dalton. This is a book that no political scientist affords to ignore: the translation covers the latest edition of one of the most prestigious textbooks, its successive editions serving as landmarks in the rise of Comparative Politics. As the field seems to be extremely dynamic in Romanian political science, as well, this textbook will probably enjoy an excellent reception. Again, one can hope that undergraduate students will be encouraged to improve their theoretical awareness and to use the comparative approach in their own



research, with boldness and theoretical care.

Since the beginning of the decade, Romanian readers have been offered more and more valuable translations in the field of European Studies. Editura Polirom – Iași is a major player in this area, as proved by the recent publication of Joseph H. H. Weiler, *The Constitution of Europe* [*Constituția Europei*]. The author has been one of the outstanding participants in the intellectual debates on European integration and – as both legal scholars and political scientists know – he has devised a particular and comprehensive framework of analysis. His way of explaining the normative choices that we face, as European citizens, as well as his thorough interpretation of both process and structure, should certainly make the European Union more familiar to the general public, while the political scientist should be pleased to find out that substantive issues trump technicalities, in understanding European integration.

The field of International Relations is once again represented at Polirom, with the translation of a relatively recent, though already famous work: Barry Buzan and Richard Little, *International Systems in World History: Remaking the Study of International Relations* [*Sistemele internaționale în istoria lumii: Reconfigurarea studiului relațiilor internaționale*]. As students in the field will undoubtedly discover, the solid theoretical foundation from which Buzan and Little proceed gives them the necessary tools for challenging entrenched ideas and theories. Their long awaited encounter with world history is perhaps one of the most relevant examples of productive crossing of disciplinary borders, and also a relief for those students of International Relations who reject parochial approaches to their discipline and favor a much broader outlook.

