

**Robert O. Keohane, Joseph S. Nye, *Putere și interdependență*, Iași, Ed. Polirom, 2009 (orig. ed. *Power and Interdependence*, 3rd ed., New York, Pearson Education, Inc., Longman, 2001).**

**Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Puterea blândă. Calea către succes în politica mondială*, Iași, Ed. Institutul European, 2009 (orig. ed. *Soft Power. The Means to Success in World Politics*, New York, Perseus Books, 2004)**

**Graham Allison, Philip Zelikow, *Esența deciziei: O explicație a crizei rachetelor din Cuba*, Iași, Ed. Polirom, 2010 (orig. ed. *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2nd ed., New York, Pearson Education, Inc., Longman, 1999).**

**John Lewis Gaddis, *Războiul Rece*, București, RAO International Publishing Company, 2009 (orig. ed. *The Cold War*, New York, Penguin Press, 2005).**

**Grzegorz Ekiert, Stephen E. Hanson (coord.), *Capitalism și democrație în Europa Centrală și de Est*, Iași, Ed. Polirom, 2010 (orig. ed. *Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. Assessing the Legacy of Communist Rule*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2003).**

**Jean Blondel, *Guvernarea comparată*, Iași, Ed. Institutul European, 2009 (orig. ed. *Comparative Government*, New York, Pearson Education, Inc., 1995).**

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Translations play an important part in the dissemination of knowledge in the field of Political Science, and the publishing industry continues to provide Romanian editions of important works. There is still much to do in this direction, and it will probably take many years to reach a satisfactory level, in quantitative terms. It is also important to ensure the quality of translation, particularly regarding the theoretical and conceptual issues. Fortunately, there has been a notable progress in this respect, and the editions featured in this note illustrate this point.

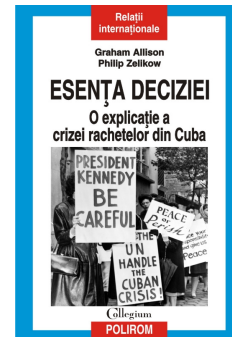
In the field of International Relations, a Romanian edition of Keohane and Nye's classic *Power and Interdependence* has recently been published at Polirom Press. As political scientists know quite well, this has been one of the most influential texts in the discipline of IR and will certainly be included in the reading lists for several courses in this field. The updated edition made available to the Romanian public includes several recent contributions in which the authors themselves reflect on their original work and assess its impact on the development of IR theory. In fact, this work provides a coherent way to understand international politics, to assess the pros and cons of liberal and interdependence theory and of its main rivals. The current process of globalization, the connections between politics and economics, the role of international institutions are among the fundamental issues that are dealt with, and one can hope that both professionals and the general public will use the outstanding insights put forward by Keohane and Nye. In terms of teaching, the Romanian edition should exert a notable influence, by encouraging undergraduate and graduate students to deepen their understanding of this school of thought and to address the issue of interdependence in their own research.

Along similar lines, the publication of the Romanian edition of Nye's influential *Soft Power* (at Institutul European Press) should also encourage the readers to reflect on the present vitality of liberal-interdependence theory. They can gain a better knowledge of an extremely influential concept, frequently used by

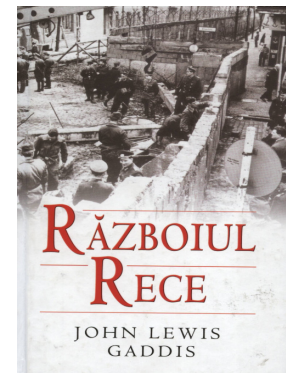


theorists and statesmen, as well as by the media. Nowadays, there is a widespread feeling that coercive (hard) power is not enough for success in world politics, so that international actors should pay much more attention to co-optive (soft) power. States and other bodies – including international non-governmental organizations – have become aware of that imperative, and are now competing to become role models, to use the channels of societal interdependence in order to acquire prestige in various arenas. For the Romanian reader, the issue of soft power is highly relevant in the context of European integration, which can be interpreted as a benign use of EU soft power relative to Central and Eastern European applicants, inducing them to implement the reforms that eventually opened the way for membership.

The Romanian edition of Allison and Zelikow's *Essence of Decision* (Polirom Press) should raise the interest for the subdiscipline of Foreign Policy Analysis, and encourage students to improve their knowledge in the field of Contemporary History. They will also be encouraged to question some of the building blocks within IR theory, such as the state-as-actor assumption or the rationality assumption. Another imperative is quite well served by the publication of the *Essence of Decision*: IR teaching should be more closely related to the field of domestic politics, as well as to organizational theory. Given the current form of the curriculum for undergraduate studies in IR, the *Essence of Decision* will act as an integrator between various subfields and will also contribute to a more sophisticated interpretation of the status of IR theory within the wider field of contemporary political science.



The historical literature on the Cold War has always been a major source of inspiration for international relations theory, and John Lewis Gaddis is a historian whose work has become quite prominent in the field of IR. The translation of his *Cold War* (RAO International) will probably exert a beneficial influence on the teaching of Contemporary History, if only for the fact that it will encourage students and academics in the field to open up their work to inputs from political science. For the teaching of IR in Romania – mostly, at the graduate studies level –, this edition can be welcomed as an incentive to address other works by Gaddis, especially those in which he develops an informed critique of the numerous intellectual failures of international theory. Since a whole generation of political scientists has been trained in an environment shaped by the end of the Cold War – seen as the historic event of our times – such works will certainly prove helpful for Political Science teaching.



Turning to the field of Comparative Politics, it may be that postcommunism has ceased to be a major topic of research, but one must concede that very few important works in this field have been translated and made available to the average reader. Ekiert and Hanson's *Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe* (Polirom Press) should help maintain the focus on theoretical issues, providing a necessary complement to the more empirically oriented literature that has already gained prominence in the Romanian scientific community. Historical institutionalism is a powerful research program on postcommunist transition, and the volume edited by Ekiert and Hanson proves the point. Since many Romanian political scientists are obviously interested in the post-1989 transformation, the volume will prove helpful to academics and students alike. There is a need for disciplined work in the



field, especially for comparative inquiries that approach Romania's trajectory within subregional and regional contexts, starting from major theories and using strong methodological tools.

The teaching of Comparative Politics at the undergraduate level will have a lot to gain from the publication by Institutul European Press of Jean Blondel's influential *Comparative Government*. Starting from a solid conceptualization of politics, this textbook can prove extremely helpful for students in political science, due to its systematic approach and illustrative use of the comparative method. The issues raised by the various ways to conceptualize the state and Blondel's insightful analysis of contemporary Executives are just two of the arguments for which this work has been seen as one of the best course textbooks in the field. Given the particular context of the democratization process in Romania, comparative analysis remains an effective instrument, one that would lead the student to a deeper and better understanding of basic concepts such as government, state, or political system, to a productive use of theory in order to account for the similarities and differences between Romania and other countries included in the so-called "third wave" of democratization.

