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CULTURAL SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY THREATS

Janusz Gierszewski, Andrzej Pieczywok, Juliusz Piwowarski, *Wyzwania i zagrożenia w obszarze bezpieczeństwa kulturowego*, Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek, Toruń 2020, pp. 222

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Security is a sphere of social life that must constantly be adapted to the changing world and new challenges on many levels. Globalization processes do not facilitate this in any way, a good example of which is the current coronavirus pandemic. However, before the world experienced the dangerous virus, climate security, migration and the fight against terrorism were widely discussed security issues. All of them function within the field of the so-called cultural security, which were examined by Janusz Gierszewski, Andrzej Pieczywok and Juliusz Piwowarski in the publication *Wyzwania i zagrożenia w obszarze bezpieczeństwa kulturowego*. This is a topic that is extremely interesting and of the moment,

which is a reason not only security researchers but also political scientists undertake studies on it. At this point, one can mention, for example, the work of Joanna Rak, who analyzed the Polish Sejm discourse on cultural security through the prism of distinguished attitudes towards it, such as: nativistic, vitalistic, autonegativistic, and counter-acculturative (Rak, 2018).

The reviewed publication consists of an introduction, four substantive chapters and a conclusion. The authors' main intention was to identify challenges and threats in the area of security and to answer the research question: "What are the contemporary challenges and threats in the area of cultural security in national, regional (local) and individual terms?" (p. 10). The first chapter is an analysis of factors that have an impact on cultural security, and according to the authors, these are: the globalization of culture,

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both legal and illegal migration, terrorism, religion, and climate change. In the second chapter, the authors focused on the threats in relation to regional and border culture, due to the division into regions in Europe. In chapter three, cultural threats were considered from the perspective of the individual. The individual dimension of security is to be determined by: fear, risk, uncertainty, emotionality, types of personality and identity (p. 120). In turn, the existential dimension is considered by the authors within the space of modern information and communication technologies and threats that may arise from them for the individual (p. 129). The last chapter refers to sustainable development in various dimensions and is an attempt to indicate the directions of changes that would allow to obtain positive effects in this area.

Unfortunately, the publication is not without weaknesses. First, the authors point to the factors that they believe influence the level of cultural security and among them they list: globalization, migration, terrorism, religion, and climate (p. 24). The purpose of the monograph was to identify challenges and threats, and in this case they are listed at the very beginning of the publication, without proper research or analysis. This may cause an impression that the authors have tried to create a *subjective* catalogue of threats. Secondly, the last chapter on sustainable development lacks references to the European Union and its horizontal policies. The authors mentioned, for example, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and arrangements made there (p. 181), or a conference organized by UNESCO (p. 182), while the most important organization from Europe's point of view, whose actions have a significant impact on sustainable development, was omitted.

Despite these shortcomings, the reception of the book is positive. The book content brings readers closer to the answer to the research question posed by the authors, and the book structure is transparent, making its reception a pleasant experience. The topics have been presented in an accessible way and easy to understand for anyone interested in cultural security.

The reviewed publication is recommended especially for students of internal and national security, but also for political scientists who are increasingly undertaking research on the concept of cultural security. It definitely helps to discern possible directions of studies on the most current topics. It is also a good offer for academic teachers who want to familiarize students with the subject of contemporary threats and challenges faced by international security.

REFERENCES:

Rak, J. (2018). *Postawy wobec bezpieczeństwa kulturowego w polskim dyskursie sejmowym 2004–2011*. Warszawa: Dom Wydawniczy Elipsa.