

## FOREWORD

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - SERBIA AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

The thematic proceedings, *International Organizations – Serbia and the Contemporary World*, which we offer to the public, was prepared with a lot of diligence and refined research zeal, in a methodologically and scientifically acceptable manner, with the aim of shedding light on numerous questions about international organizations as one of the most dynamic social phenomena that marked the 20th and early 21st centuries. The collection contains very concise intellectual debates and reflections based on epistemological procedures and planning predictions of eminent scientists, diplomats, and researchers from Serbia and the world.

Taking into account that the issue of cooperation with international organizations is an important factor in the positioning of states in international relations, the strengthening of this cooperation seems very important today since the modern world is full of challenges and risks that require the institutional linking of states to solve all serious international problems. A re-examination of the legal and political status of the most important international organizations, their structural and functional organization, their competencies, powers, and responsibilities, as well as their *modus operandi*, in this sense, is an important prerequisite for a realistic assessment of the place and role of states in contemporary international relations.

From historical experience, it can be argued that in international relations, the general principle of association has always been valid, not only for individuals but also for states. States connect on the basis of the same motives as individuals – achieving common benefit, eliminating common danger, and regulating mutual relations. Just as there is considerable variety in the associations of individuals, there is undoubted variety in the associations of states. Linking means limiting the power to the extent that

enables the coordination of mutual activities. The laws of integration and the merging of states into one higher political unit are the creation of opportunities, historical necessities, and political needs. Hence, there is no international relationship that cannot be the subject of cooperation and integration into an international organization. After all, this is evidenced by the huge number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations in the world since the beginning of the 21st century. International organizations have become important subjects of international relations and the basic form of their institutionalization. Although international organizations had their spiritual supporters back in the Middle Ages (starting with Pierre Dubois, the Czech King Poděbrady, Emeric Crucé, William Penn, Jacques-Henri Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Jeremy Bentham, Immanuel Kant, and others), the process of evolution of international organizations became visible on the international level only with the holding of large international congresses and peace conferences (such as the congress that took place after the thirty-year religious war in Münster and Osnabrück, which led to the conclusion of the Peace of Westphalia, then the Congress of Vienna from 1814-1815, the Berlin Congress of 1878, and the Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907). On the other hand, the historical course of connecting states did not depend exclusively on political circumstances but also on the specifics of the development of international economic relations, which, due to the intertwining of interstate and private interests, indirectly or directly influenced the complexity of international forms of cooperation and the emergence of specialized organizations with limited and practical goals (such as river commissions on the Rhine, Danube, Elbe, etc.), or on the creation of the so-called *administrative unions* that functionally united and placed under the control of a central international body various areas of interstate cooperation (for example, provision of telegraphic and postal services, standardization of measures and weights, protection of industrial property and copyright, health, agriculture, etc.). International organizations that had the features of modern international organizations (e.g., the League of Nations as a true universal international organization or the International Labor Organization) were created after the First World War. Modern international organizations, on the other hand, were formed only after the end of the Second World War, with the establishment of the universal organization of the United Nations. This organization encouraged the establishment of new international organizations and the revival and strengthening of existing ones. Many such organizations today are connected to the so-called *United Nations system*.

From the above, it follows that the objective process of development of international relations after the Second World War is moving towards global social integration, which does not prevent the existence of wider or narrower forms of cooperation and connection of states at the intercontinental, regional, and sub-regional level. This association moves through various forms of institutional cooperation with the aim of solving common problems and achieving common interests. Considering the great diversity of international organizations, as well as the diversity of their activities in the modern period of the development of international relations (from politics, science, and culture, to the economy, trade, and transport, as well as other important social areas), one could also speak of “the century of the international organization”. Their importance goes beyond the narrow framework that associations and communities of states had in the past. The expansion of international organizations shows most visibly the tendency for the continuous development of institutionalized international cooperation. Given that they are created on the basis of international treaties, international organizations are regulated by a relatively young branch of international public law – the law of international organizations. This branch of international law regulates the internal organizational and legal structure of international organizations, their legal capacity in international relations, their legal relations with states and other international organizations, as well as with other subjects of international law (jurisdiction, ability to conclude contracts, right of delegation, privileges and immunities, international responsibility, financing, etc.), acquisition and loss of membership, the process of decision-making and executing decisions, and changes in the structure and disappearance of international organizations (succession).

Starting from the fact that the rules on the basis of which a single concept of international organizations would be built do not exist, a comparative overview of the main characteristics of some of the existing international organizations is briefly presented in the introductory part of the thematic compendium that deals with general issues. In this part, the problem of the legal subjectivity of international organizations, their role in the creation of international law, up to the application of diplomatic law to the officials of international organizations, through specific questions related to the place and role of non-governmental organizations in contemporary international relations and international law, has been studiously investigated.

In order to make the most authoritative conclusions regarding some of the most current issues of international organizations that could contribute to the optimal positioning of states in contemporary international relations

(first of all, I mean Serbia), the thematic collection of papers is methodologically systematized in such a way as to include the most diverse analyses of global and regional international organizations and bodies.

Given that global international organizations serve in the realization of common human interests and values, such as the preservation of international peace and security and the promotion of international cooperation between states (primarily through the system of the universal organization of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and related international organizations and contracting bodies), a special chapter of the proceedings is dedicated to the place and role of these organizations in the current international order. In this regard, care was taken not only about the volume of the material but also about the practical needs of the readers, which is why the editors of the collection carried out a certain rationalization of several important thematic areas to provide easier access to the most important information about global international organizations, their position and role, as well as the need for their further reform and transformation in view of the dynamics of the development of international relations. At the same time, it was taken into account that in the existing constellation of international relations, international law is conditioned by a complex system of interactions between various subjects and actors of international relations; i.e., in contemporary international relations, in addition to classical (*inter-states or intergovernmental*) organizations, various organizations and associations of civil society play an increasingly important role, whose founders and members are not states (which is why they are often called *international non-governmental organizations*). Therefore, certain works dedicated to non-governmental organizations and bodies (primarily those that exercise specific public powers in the pursuit of broader humanitarian goals, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross) found a well-deserved place in this part of the proceedings.

In the continuation of the thematic collection, issues related to the status and functioning of important regional international organizations and their place in the system of contemporary international relations are also discussed. Thus, *inter alia*, regional organizations such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization of American States, etc. For didactic reasons, regional international organizations are analyzed within special chapters under the names: *European, Eurasian, Afro-Asian, and American international*

*organizations*. In the aforementioned chapters, a synthesis of the thematically close theoretical studies of the authors covering various issues and problems of regional integration, as well as the creation and application of international law, was made. Individual analyses of Serbia's status in certain international organizations, as well as analytical studies on the process of European integration, i.e., assessments of its further improvement in the Western Balkans, give special weight to this part of the proceedings.

In the last part of the thematic proceedings, the very current issues of the positioning of international organizations in contemporary international relations are dealt with. This is done through an evolutionary approach in research and with reference to political, legal, economic, and security points of view about changes in the existing institutional system of international relations. The change in the security paradigm in the modern world has led to the need for the emergence of new organizational forms of strategic partnerships in the world. In this regard, this part of the proceedings analyzes the security architecture in Europe through a synthesis of discussions on the role and place of the EU, NATO, and the OSCE. At the same time, through individual analyses, projections of Serbia's positioning towards these international organizations (as well as some others, including international police organizations) are presented. In this context, the questions of the emergence and recognition of new states in the United Nations system, the role of small states with regard to the problem of NATO expansion, and the foreign policy and legal position of Serbia in the UN regarding the problem of regulating the status of Kosovo and Metohija and the continued presence of NATO in this area are analyzed. Very important studies in this part of the collection are also devoted to the issues of the emergence of multipolarity in the modern world, which is projected through the relations of great powers and international organizations (e.g., through the relationship between NATO and China), but also through the strengthening of the position of some regional security pacts (such as the AUKS), and transnational forms of international security and economic organization (such as the CSTO and the BRICS).

Taking into account all of the above, it should be pointed out that international organizations in contemporary circumstances, along with states, represent the most important subjects in the creation of a new international order whose goals are generally related to the democratization of contemporary international relations and the globalization of the world economy. Their continuous expansion indicates their increased importance for the further development of international relations. Today, international

organizations represent irreplaceable forums for the exchange of different views and experiences of importance for the preservation of international peace and security, more balanced social development, political cooperation, and overall economic progress.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the authors of this thematic proceedings for the diligence they invested in writing articles and analyses dedicated to the topic: *International Organizations – Serbia and the Contemporary World*. Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleague and Co-Editor of this collection, *Toni Mileški*, a Full Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, as well as to the Faculty itself, which is the co-publisher of this edition with the IYPE. I thank, with deep respect, the esteemed members of the international Editorial Board. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor *Branislav Đorđević*, Director of the IYPE, for his trust in me during the preparation of this internationally important scientific publication.

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