
REVIEWS AND ANNOTATIONS

Kysela, Jan (ed.). *State as a Giant with Feet of Clay*. Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien: Peter Lang, 2014. 182 pp.

Globalization has been one of the most hotly disputed topics of our time not only in academia but also in public debates. Accordingly, there has emerged a substantial amount of literature focusing on different aspects and utilizing different theoretical and methodological perspectives. Academia have been preoccupied with explaining globalization; amongst the many inquiries into the phenomena, two questions seem to stand out: a) does globalization mean the end of the nation state b) are nation states able to respond to processes of global change?

The subject of change, 'diffusion', or the 'disappearing' of national sovereignty started to be raised in the late 20th century in connection with the problems of globalization. The process of globalization undoubtedly contributes to the change and reduction of the scope of state sovereign powers. The list of threats to state sovereignty often includes global financial flows, multinational corporations and global media empires etc. There are 'globalisation sceptics' denying the reality of globalisation or questioning the extent of change attributable to globalisation. Against this view, 'globalisation believers' argue that globalisation cannot be resisted. No wonder that in the last two or three decades there appeared new aspects in this field, especially in the context of discussing issues of globalization. It is reasonable to speak about the transition of most countries and the system of international relations in general to a new state of sovereignty.

Though globalization has not started today, in general, it is a new, unknown, most complicated and in many ways unpredictable process, which will create new problems in all spheres of life and require their solutions. One of the most important problems is that of combining national and supra-national, group and world interests. The book "*State as a Giant with Feet of Clay*" regards the relationship between the state and globalisation as one of both continuity and change. It is continuous, because at the core of governance arrangements in the contemporary globalising world, state relations persist. However, there are changes in the character of the state, such as its capacities and policy contents brought about by globalisation. The process of globalization undoubtedly contributes to the change and reduction of the scope of state sovereign powers.

The team of authors, led by Jan Kysela, aims at answering just such questions. Kysela brought together an interesting and diverse team of authors who succeeded in delivering a comprehensive book which managed to examine the connections and conflicts that exist between global and national processes, institutions and cultures in great detail. Debating and explaining controversial and contested understandings of globalization and the role of the nation state, this collection of essays explores hot and timely topics using interdisciplinary insights from sociology, political science and economics. The essays in the book are thought-provoking and yet easy to follow, capitalizing on a thorough understanding of the history, theories and debates on the role of nation state.

The book "*State as a Giant with Feet of Clay*", is the result of a serious, analytical and deeply intellectual study of the globalization phenomenon and the nation state. It is a valuable effort which, from an intellectual plane, provides not only a serious academic argument, it also offers guidelines to policy makers, judges and government officials on the interrelationship between the nation state and the globalization phenomenon in their relevant aspects.

Petr Agha*

* Mgr. Petr Agha, Ph.D., LL.M., Institute of State and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague. The work was created under subsidies for long-term conceptual development of the Institute of State and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v. v. i. (RVO:68378122).