

THE OPINION ON THE ACADEMIC TEXTBOOK "INTERNAL SECURITY" BY Z. ŚCIBIOREK, B. WIŚNIEWSKI, R.B KUC, A. DAWIDCZYK

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Security issues, both national and internal, since time immemorial have had their dimension and are a crucial value for an individual and society; they have accompanied a man since the earliest times. Since the dawn of humanity, issues concerning civil protection and defence against threats resulting from natural forces as well as effects of human activity have been at the foreground. It is no different now even in the context of what is happening in Eastern Europe, some questions related to peaceful life are relevant not only for us. With regard to internal security matters, issues arising from the democratisation of life, ongoing processes of globalisation and internationalisation of socio-economic phenomena are of great importance.

The aforementioned problems are considerably emphasised in the textbook concerned. For the authors of this paper it is a kind of a reference point to underline the variability of our life conditions and what those changes at the international level bring with them - what risk they may carry.

In the introduction it is strongly stressed that the reality around us is in a permanent motion. Any processes take place in ever-changing conditions. Conditions of functioning and executing tasks by institutions responsible for matters relating to internal security undergo transformation. They are becoming increasingly complex, which has an impact on the process of command (management) and all that leads to achieving high effectiveness (implementation of tasks) as well as on the capabilities of systems in operation, in particular the crisis management system. The authors emphasise that today internal security issues cannot be seen in terms of individual events and what poses a threat to the public, general or political safety should be viewed as complex phenomena that if not halted (neutralised) in time can result in unimaginable events.

The flagged up circumstances are not favouring people responsible for internal security. In many cases, existing methods of operation (solving problems) are not acceptable in modern times and conditions. However, the internationalisation of social and eco-

conomic phenomena is so apparent that one cannot pass them by indifferently. It is indispensable to make changes and verify previously accepted solutions. In order to be prepared for the eventuality of events which are adverse to the state, society or nature, it is necessary to integrate into the surrounding reality and use it skillfully to monitor, neutralise and eliminate effects of unfavourable events in most effective way.

One has to agree with the authors' thesis that the differentiation of actions performed aimed at minimising risks generates the need to take interest in them from the scientific point of view, within the scope of several scientific disciplines. Many institutions are becoming aware of the necessity to carry out interdisciplinary research, results of which will provide the basis for measures undertaken to increase the effectiveness of the preventive function. I therefore believe that reading this book not only helps a reader realise the complexity of the phenomena, but also gives rise to the implementation of tasks targeted at system solutions.

The adopted textbook structure guarantees dissemination of knowledge about various risks and ways of scientific explaining their origins, to some extent allowing contribute to their minimisation. No doubt readers may sometimes have a slightly different view on the matter of the sequence and the manner of views presentation as well as ways of solving them. However, the authors with the textbook join the mainstream discussion on the scientific identification and prediction of phenomena referred to collectively as threats. Their "message" is to present not merely potential threats to the internal security related to ways of solving such problems having not only experience (practice), but also specific methodological competences.

The textbook consists of three parts. The first of them, by Professor Zbigniew Ścibiorek, concerns theoretical issues dealing with the internal security. This section of the book contains five chapters. After the presentation of the most important terminologies, the history and present issues relating to the internal security are discussed in a very condensed manner. Then there are shown forms and types of the security system perceived as an element of the national security. In the context of relatively new, yet dynamic "emerging" threats, there are raised questions referred to terrorism and cyber-terrorism. In general, this part of the textbook constitutes a kind of a reference point to examining subsequent topics contained in the following parts of the study.

The second part, by Professor Bernard Wiśniewski, consists of three chapters. The first one shows the institutional dimension of security, which focuses on legal grounds for functioning of governmental and non-governmental organisations responsible for the internal security. In this chapter, issues concerning the operation of institutions which are under the authority of the competent minister of internal affairs. The next chapter presents matters related to the organisation of ongoing activities of the institutions in charge of the internal security and their functioning in the process of crisis management and defence preparations. In the last section of this part of the paper, relationships between states of emergency and the internal security are focused on.

Another part by Professor Rafał Bolesław Kuc and Professor Andrzej Dawidczyk is in the strict sense of the word a set of specific research methods, techniques and tools

used in the security sciences but also, and perhaps above all, applied in practice for analysing, planning and designing by state institutions responsible for security at all levels. In this section, commencing from a reflection on the methodological status of sciences of safety, a reader is gradually familiarised with methods of formulating interests and objectives of security policy described on the basis of existing and projected future conditions of functioning of the state in its system environment. Classical and multidimensional methods as well as mathematical models are presented herein. In turn, this part of the book provides the structured methodology of the environment strategic analysis with special emphasis on taxonomic methods, in order to later circumscribe a set of selected forecasting methods for the purposes of the strategic planning and design. In the next section there are discussed concept methods of planning complex operations and methods of planning security, defence and military strategies, and finally the last part of this chapter presents methods of developing state security structures.

Each chapter concludes with basic literature references to a given passage of the textbook. It is a bounded set and for this reason we encourage the wider use of other works contained in a very extensive bibliography, as well as the information available on Internet websites.

The authors equip a reader with a rich set of methods and ways of solving problems associated with the internal security. It is by all means favorable since sciences of safety largely benefit from other sciences, but at the same time they themselves develop separate, relevant only for them, sets of scientific approaches together with associated equipment. In the discussed textbook there are clearly noticed adequate solutions, in many cases specific authors' proposals how to use the existing acquis together with the indication of entirely new research methods, techniques and tools inherent in sciences of safety (not only internal).

Here it is important to note the fact that the textbook is written in an accessible language, without any ornaments, both in respect of substantive as well as methodological issues. I would like to state my conviction that the work under review will be devoted particular attention not only by students and academic teachers of the Military School of Land Forces, but also public authorities and public administration bodies and institutions responsible for social and economic policy. I congratulate the authors on such a successful publication, on covering on 464 pages key issues of interest of us all.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Zenon ZAMIAR, Prof. PhD. Eng. – has significant scientific achievements - didactic and organizational - in higher, military and civilian, education. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 publications, including 11 monographs and 6 academic textbooks. He led or is currently leading 31 research projects. He is a reviewer of doctoral and habilitation dissertations. He was a member of Scientific Committees in over 30 international and Polish scientific conferences. Currently he participates in Scientific

Colleges of 5 scientific journals, including 2 with an international reach. He is the author of numerous expert opinions. He cooperates with research centers in Poland and abroad. His major areas of interests are, among others,: contemporary conditions of security and crisis management; the use of forces and measures of the Armed Forces and the Civil Defence in removing effects of emergency situations and reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure; theory and practice of crisis management, mainly at local government levels; transport safety in crisis situations; civil planning in the security system.

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