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W TROSCE O BEZPIECZNE JUTRO. REMINISCENCJE I ZAMIERZENIA
[FOR THE SAKE OF SECURE TOMORROW. REMINISCENCES AND INTENTIONS]

WYŻSZA SZKOŁA BEZPIECZEŃSTWA, POZNAŃ 2017, SS. 442

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The discussed book was published by Wyższa Szkoła Bezpieczeństwa (WSB) [Security University], thus a short presentation of this university seems justified.

Wyższa Szkoła Bezpieczeństwa is a private university operating on the basis of the decision of the Minister of National Education and Sport of December 2004, so it has a fairly long history. The name of the university indicates that the education and research carried out there are focused on broadly understood security. With the passage of time the university has opened its branches in several towns in Poland, including in Gdańsk, Gliwice, and even in Bartoszyce on the Polish side of the border. Currently it has six branches. The scientific and didactic profile of the WSB has been prepared by employees of the University of A. Mickiewicz in Poznań, as well as teaching and scientific staff of schools for officers (the Stefan Czarnecki Academy of Officers in Poznań and the Tadeusz Kościuszko College of Land Forces Officers in Wrocław).

Originally, the university was to educate primarily personnel for uniformed services, but over time its didactic offer has been significantly expanded to include professions related to broadly understood security. The main major is national security, but the university also offers majors in pedagogy, psychology, international relations.

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The university has its publishing house, which publishes more and more items each year. Some of them are periodicals, e.g. the quarterly “Przegląd Naukowo-Metodyczny. Edukacja dla Bezpieczeństwa” [‘Scientific and Methodological Review. Education for Security’] or series of thematic monographs, and the authors are affiliated with various Polish and foreign universities and scientific entities.

An important aspect of the university’s activity is the organisation of national and international conferences, which take place in various cities and branches of the university. Speeches on relevant topics are then published in post-conference publications. One of them is the presented book: *W trosce o bezpieczne jutro. Reminiscencje i zamierzenia* [For the Sake of Secure Tomorrow. Reminiscences and Intentions] – the effect of one of the series of conferences under the common title *Kultura pokoju* [Culture of Peace].

After reviewing the table of contents one can get an impression that the item contains articles from many, sometimes distant fields, because next to the legal aspects of security one can find a part devoted to military, energy or environmental security. However, after a closer, even cursory inspection of the contents of the papers, the reader realises what a broad and complex concept security is and what essential aspects of security we are confronted with as a state, nation and citizens. The subject matter encompasses the whole spectrum of problems, from general to specific ones and more specialised issues.

The presented book consists of five chapters, each dedicated to a different aspect of security. The first chapter is devoted to international security in the light of current challenges and threats. The second chapter discusses legal aspects of security, including civil defence and security of personal data and information. The third chapter includes studies devoted to energy security, the crisis management system in Poland, cybersecurity. The fourth chapter is entitled “Sozologiczne, ekologiczne, energetyczne i ekonomiczne aspekty bezpieczeństwa” [‘Environmental, ecological, energy and economic aspects of security. The last, fifth chapter is dedicated to military security’].

Let us devote some attention to the first chapter. Here we find six articles presenting various aspects of security, discussed from the perspective of the science of international relations, international law, and political science. Each of the articles refers to other issues, but nevertheless they constitute a coherent whole that allows one to examine detailed, but important aspects of contemporary international relations. If we trace the issues related to

the policy of Swiss neutrality, the situation in Ukraine and the influence of the Russian Federation on the fragmentation of areas close to the abroad, migration to Europe and its repercussions for security of the continent, intricacies related to diplomatic settlement of disputes, the strategic dimension of the Arctic and the European Union's policy towards Central Asia, we begin to perceive Europe in a new light. Then the reader becomes aware of the multitude of problems politicians and societies are fraught with, requiring if not a solution than at least a due consideration. For a researcher, such a review may not only be a reason for reflection, but above all an inspiration for further own research.

An essential aspect, as it seems, of the undertaken topics is their importance for current and prospective processes affecting international relations. Undoubtedly, one of such issues is the Arctic region and various international actors' interest in it and as such it is worthy of attention. The article devoted to this part of the world presents the strategic dimension of the Arctic, its resources and a whole set of factors affecting the exploitation of energy resources, ranging from the scope and pace of climate change, through economic conditions and global markets, technology development in the mining industry, to the political significance of development at local, regional and global levels (p. 21). The genesis and activities of the Arctic Council and its importance as an original regional cooperation forum are discussed here. The author not only describes this body but also presents a critical analysis of the scope and forms of its activities, taking into account the interests of indigenous people. Opinions and observations contained in the conclusion are interesting and can be inspiring for those interested in security and international relations.

The authors of the studies are affiliated with serious scientific centres, and as a rule, can boast of serious scientific achievements, although interesting works by debutants can also be found here. Just like in many collective works, not all studies present a uniform level (especially as far as the editorial side is concerned), however, overall, various mistakes and slips may not be of much importance, although other readers may assess them differently. It seems that the most important is the idea, the scheme, a certain coherent concept that certainly lies at the heart of the book. As can be inferred from number 1 on the cover, this book is the first issue of a planned cycle, so we can wait expectantly for the next publications.

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