
BOOK REVIEW

***Conflict and Renewal: Europe Transformed – Essays in Honour of Wolfgang Petritsch*, edited by Hannes Swoboda, Christophe Solioz, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden 2007, 407 pp, ISBN 978-3-8329-2843-8**

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There are not many publications in which the reader will find contributions by leading, present or former, policymakers from Javier Solana to Madeleine Albright, scholars like Manfred Nowak and Cornelio Sommaruga, diplomats and practitioners of post-conflict management and human rights like Jody Williams, Carla del Ponte and Sonja Biserko — and these are but a few names of the over fifty contributors to ‘Conflict and Renewal — Europe Transformed’. But they all shared their views on Europe and the world in a collection of essays published on the occasion of the sixtieth birthday of Wolfgang Petritsch. This alone already illustrates the great — and well-deserved — esteem in which Wolfgang Petritsch is held in the international community.

Ambassador Petritsch, since 2002 Head of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN in Geneva, will probably be best known to the readers of this journal as the High Representative of the International Community for Bosnia and Herzegovina, a function he held between 1999 and 2002, and as the EU Special Envoy for Kosovo in 1998-1999. It is not surprising, therefore, that a large part of the book is devoted to the questions of South East Europe and that among the contributors we can find three (present or former) presidents from Balkan countries: the Bosnian Željko Komšić, the Croatian Stjepan Mesić and the Slovenian Milan Kučan, not to mention the many scholars, politicians and journalists who have over the years shown special interest in the area.

It would obviously be impossible in the space available to pay attention to all the many contributions in this book and even a comprehensive list of all the contributors with their present functions takes several pages. But already a superficial glance at the various parts will give an indication of the wide range of issues covered, as well as of those who dealt with these various issues.

¹ Harm J. Hazewinkel retired in December 2004 from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having dealt for many years with the OSCE. He is editor of *Security and Human Rights*.

Take the first chapter after the opening, entitled 'Europe as a Global Player', which comprises contributions by the EU's Javier Solana, Germany's former Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, the Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, NATO's former Secretary-General Lord Robertson, Austria's former Vice-Chancellor Erhard Busek and the German Professor Franz-Lothar Altmann. All, though from different angles, deal with the necessity for Europe to have not just a common policy but a common feeling, common interests in order to be able to face crises like we have seen in the Balkans and elsewhere.

Some problems facing Europe can also be found in the chapter 'Diversity of Europe', which includes such different issues as Euroscepticism, the place of minorities in Europe and the interesting 'Europe seen from the Other Europe' by Predrag Matvejević which ends with the hardly comforting thought that 'The Other Europe is capable of creating a good many further problems for Europe itself'.

Several chapters deal in more detail with the problems of South Eastern Europe, like 'Post-Conflict Challenges', with contributions from inter alia Madeleine Albright and Carl Bildt, and even more 'A New Regional Approach for South East Europe', 'Bosnia and Herzegovina Beyond Dayton', and 'Re-examining Kosovo's and Serbia's Future'.

Special attention is given to the importance of justice and forgiveness as tools for reconciliation in a post-conflict world in the chapter 'Transitional Justice for Reconciliation', which includes contributions by Carla del Ponte and Cornelio Sommaruga. The last part of this chapter, an article by Gabriel Lansky on 'Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism', makes the link to the next chapter 'Human Rights — Acting Makes the Difference'. Jody Williams here rightly concludes her contribution with 'Without action for change, change will not come — at least not the change sought by those of us who seek a world of peace and security for all'. Here we also find the article on 'The Challenge of Partnership, Civil Society and Human Rights' by Aaron Rhodes.

The part in the book on the media — in a chapter entitled 'Media and Communication in a Globalised World' — includes a contribution by the OSCE's former RgOM Freimut Duve, and last, but not least, is the chapter entitled 'Politics and Economy', which certainly goes beyond economic issues as such, but includes also a very critical article by Jean Ziegler, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, on the 'The Failure of Human Rights', concluding that 'a victorious war against terrorism is first and foremost a war against humiliation, misery and hunger.'

Much more is to be found in those 400 or so pages and this review, already for reasons of space, certainly does not do justice to all the contributions. Let it serve, however, to illustrate that 'Conflict and Renewal: Europe Transformed' contains a wealth of diverging and thought-provoking ideas. Every reader will obviously first choose from this cornucopia in particular those issues which will interest him or her most.

But he or she will then discover more and often surprising contributions, reflecting the diversity of issues in which Wolfgang Petritsch took and takes an interest, which will make it worthwhile to keep on reading. The reader will come across unexpected items like satirical cartoons (by Kurt & Plasto) and poems by Sarajevo-born Šejla Kamerić. Her closing lines can best serve also to conclude this review: 'As long as we are moving towards greater depth of understanding and wiser tolerance, that's healthy. It is only when we become entrenched in fixed opinions or allow our enthusiasm to turn to cynicism that there's a problem. Move on, be brave.'