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Denis Degterev & Konstantin Kurylev (eds), *Foreign Policies of the CIS States. A Comprehensive Reference*. Boulder, CO & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2019, ix + 517pp., \$115.00 h/b.

THIS BOOK IS A GOOD OVERVIEW OF THE FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGIES of the 11 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) since 1991, when the new regional association was established. The contributors, all experts from universities in the nine CIS countries, essentially address three main questions: 'How do the former Soviet republics that now constitute the CIS interact with each other and with other regional and world powers? What are the conceptual foundations, mechanisms, and main directions of each member state's foreign policy? What role do economic and political factors play?' (p. 517).

The book is divided into 12 chapters and 13 appendices. The first chapter investigates the political, military, economic and cultural processes that led to the integration of the CIS members. This chapter not only analyses the functioning mechanisms of the CIS but also the cooperation among its members in several sectors, such as defence, economics, culture and sport. In this context, the authors stress the importance of two organisations that are particularly important in CIS relations. The first is the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), established in 2002 on the basis of the 1992 Collective Security Treaty, which was signed with the aim of ensuring the collective defence of any member facing external aggression. The CSTO is interesting for two reasons: first, it is the most important multilateral defence organisation in the former Soviet Union; and second, its Article 4, according to which aggression against one party is considered as aggression against all other members, is regarded as similar to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which contains the same provisions. The second organisation analysed is the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which is the core of the economic integration of the CIS countries, although only some of them are members (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia). The EAEU, which was founded in 2012, helps its members 'to pursue a coordinated, consensual, or common policy in various sectors of the economy' (p. 15).

The other chapters are dedicated to the analysis of the foreign policy of the 11 CIS members. Every chapter is dedicated to a specific case. As the editors stress in the preface, all chapters have the same structure so that it is easy to compare the main features of the CIS members' foreign policies. The chapters are divided into four sections. The first focuses on the main foreign policy issues of the

country. The second analyses the evolution of foreign policy doctrines and the strategies behind foreign policy decisions. The third section examines the main foreign policy priorities and the relations with key partner countries and international organisations, while the fourth section investigates the foreign economic policy of the CIS members. This logical division gives the reader a good understanding of the current foreign policy of each of the CIS members and its development since 1991. The authors also provide a good summary of the most significant foreign policy issues while explaining the main political and economic dynamics behind them. Each chapter includes a list of suggested reading, which is useful for further study.

The appendices provide interesting information that complements and completes the analysis. Appendices 1–3 contain the documents of the CIS, the CSTO and the EAEU. This is useful in order to have a clear understanding of the stages of the political, economic and military integration of the CIS countries. Appendices 4 and 5 explore cooperation in the field of education, while Appendix 6 contains the doctrinal documents of the CIS countries on foreign policy and security as well as on their strategic development. Appendices 7 and 8 illustrate the membership of the CIS countries in international organisations in several sectors, namely defence, security, politics, economy, religion and culture. These appendices are particularly interesting because membership in international organisations helps explain the foreign policy strategies of the CIS countries. The authors give particular emphasis to the participation of the CIS countries in the activities of the United Nations (UN). While the analysis of their voting in the UN General Assembly (47th–70th sessions) demonstrates the closeness of their positions, it would have been useful to include the topics voted upon. The same can be said for Appendix 10, which illustrates the voting of the representatives of the CIS countries. Appendices 11–13 are dedicated to the bilateral relations of the CIS countries. In particular, Appendix 11 focuses on their network of diplomatic missions, while Appendix 12 illustrates the basic agreements of the bilateral cooperation of the CIS countries and neighbouring countries, and Appendix 13 the trade and economic relations of the CIS countries in 2016.

All in all, the book is well structured and provides a good understanding of the foreign policy strategies of the CIS countries. Having said this, the inclusion of a chapter on the internal political and economic dynamics of the CIS as an organisation would have given readers a clearer picture of the organisation and of relations between its members.

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