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**Cezary Mik, *Państwo i prawo wobec procesów internacjonalizacji, integracji i globalizacji. Wpływ internacjonalizacji i integracji na klasyczny paradygmat państwa i prawa (t.1). Wpływ globalizacji na klasyczny paradygmat państwa i prawa. W cieniu pandemii SARS-COVID 19 (t. 2); [State and Law: Internationalisation, Integration, and Globalisation. The impact of internationalisation and integration on the classical paradigm of state and law (Vol. I). The impact of globalisation on the classical paradigm of state and law. In the shadow of the SARS COVID-19 Pandemic (Vol. II)], Wydawnictwo TNOiK, Toruń 2021, Vol. I & II, pp. 614, 723.***

The publication is written in Polish and consists of two hefty volumes, focused on the impact of internationalisation and regional integration (Vol. I), globalisation (Vol. II), as well as focused on what the author describes as the classical paradigm of state and law. The processes are analysed in the context of five concepts: (i) state, (ii) domestic law, (iii) international community, (iv) international law, and (v) the relationships between domestic and international law. The volumes span a plethora of topics, ranging from historical remarks and philosophical arguments, through definitions and attempts at classification, to contextualisation and predictions.

Reviewing a thirteen-hundred-page monograph is no easy feat, but it is just a piece of cake when compared to the duty of having to write these two volumes. A comparative analysis of three overlapping phenomena – internationalisation, integration, and globalisation – is a difficult task, at least at the conceptual level. The three phenomena have been so far addressed by doctrine to varying degrees, with globalisation still being the most unexplored by lawyers. To ascertain the scope of the comparison and the issue of its coherence, the author had to face the demanding task of selecting the relevant facts and legal instruments. It is not obvious

whether the author's aim was to analyse the influence of each phenomenon in parallel or rather explain their interrelations. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic adds yet another level of complexity to this. Despite the wording of the subtitle (Vol. II), there are relatively few references to this question and one may doubt if the title is fitting.

The book demonstrates the author's love for the history of international law. This is both an advantage and a disadvantage of the narrative. It is an advantage because it allows a deeper look at the institutions in question. In the context of historical cycles, the great added value of the study is drawing attention to globalisation being analogous to the previously occurring phenomena of the centralisation and decentralisation of state power in the Middle Ages, which is why the modern period is called the neo-medieval period (Vol. II, chapter IV, p. 7 *et seq.*). The author rightly draws attention to the impact of the crises of the beginning of the 21st century – financial, migratory and sanitary (cf. part II, Vol. I, pp. 26) – and on historical processes and globalisation. However, a historical analysis is also a disadvantage since it justifies many digressions. For example, extensive reflections on the historicity of the globalisation process (Vol. I, part II, pp. 13-30) perhaps should be presented more concisely on the basis of one original vision defended by references to arguments of selected authors. It would be worthwhile to discuss tangent points and discrepancies between these concepts and subject them to critical analysis, especially in terms of their suitability for the legal sciences. At the same time, climate changes that require joint action by the international community, as well as the need for the integration of international law with other research disciplines, are issues that could be treated more broadly, perhaps at the expense of the vast and descriptive deliberations on other issues.

Referring to interdisciplinarity, the undoubted advantage of the book is its taking into consideration the achievements of sociologists and philosophers (e.g. Bauman, Staniszkis) and the impact of their writings on law and doctrine, especially in the context of globalisation (Vol. II, part IV, pp. 35-43; Vol. II, chapter II, pp. 4-22). A certain drawback, however, is the lack of a typology of views and their extensive reporting.

The monograph's weakest point is its size. Frankly, one may even wonder if the term 'monograph' is accurate as it covers all imaginable aspects of international law, integration, and globalisation. Some passages seem exceedingly broad, with the crucial analytical narration being lost in the abundance of aspects described in the book. Due to the extensive reconstruction of paradigms and taking up of historical threads (e.g. Vol. I,

part I), the author includes the entirety of the issues of international law and a large part of national law in the scope of the monograph, which affects its size and sometimes blurs the boundaries of the issues indicated in the title. An attempt to simultaneously capture the effects of all three processes, perhaps, should lead to a more rigorous selection of threads and a clearer determination of its criteria.

The book seems to be the most interesting in those aspects that refer to globalisation and its critical analysis. The author rightly notices that considerations concerning globalisation and global law are often based on authors' autonomous terminology, which makes it difficult to reconstruct their thoughts (part II, Vol. I, p. 6). With regard to globalisation, the question concerning the legal definition of globalisation (part II, Vol. I, especially p. 4) should be considered particularly relevant. At the same time, it is doubtful if the question as to whether 'globalisation is a real phenomenon' is correctly and precisely formulated. Rather, it should be assumed that the author's intention is to reflect on the ontological status of globalisation, which has implications for the epistemology and methodology of research on this phenomenon.

With regard to attempts at unification in the field of family law (Vol. II, chapter 3, p. 92), an interesting problem is the susceptibility of this branch of law to globalisation processes, cultural uniformization or even ideological colonialism. Perhaps these threads could be addressed in a more courageous way through the hypothesis that globalisation is desirable and effective in the area of broadly understood economic law, while it may be counterproductive in the areas of law more closely related to axiology and beliefs.

It is important for the author to capture the distinctive features of integration in relation to internationalisation and the role of integration law for cross-border relations between private entities (Vol. I, part III, pp. 212-213), as well as the impact of this process on the distinction between public and private law (pp. 223-224). The author's findings regarding the autonomy of integration law in relation to international law (pp. 270-271) and multilevel governance (pp. 272-273) are vital. Taking into account the scope of the discussion of other themes in the monograph, the author could treat this last fragment more broadly, also as an announcement of further considerations on globalisation. Reflections on the humanisation of international law are very important. They result in the question of the need to depart from its state-centred character (pp. 235-242). In this context, the author's definition of human rights relating to the role of dignity

is extremely interesting and consistent with the concept of global law by Rafael Domingo (p. 71).

The conclusions regarding the juxtaposition of globalisation processes with the process of integration and internationalisation are one of the most particularly important parts of the book (part II, Vol. I, especially pp. 236 *et seq.*). There is also the question as to whether the author considers any of the versions of global/transnational law as the most adequate. The author's criticism of the projects of constitutionalisation of international law/global constitutionalism, which at least on the theoretical level would constitute the foundations of a newly designed normative order (Vol. II, chapter 5, p. 36), is accurate.

Despite the volume of the monograph, it seems that some considerations could have been looked at more deeply. It could have benefited from a more integrated analysis and critique of the phenomenon of globalisation/standardisation in light of the legitimacy and effectiveness of law (part II, Vol. I, p. 52). A summary and assessment of the 'resistance' of individual branches of law to globalisation processes would have been valuable, especially in the context of protecting the identity of the national legal order (Vol. II, chapter 3, p. 40). An important issue is the relationship between globalisation and legal transplants: the probability of accepting or rejecting 'transplants' by individual systems (part II, Vol. I, pp. 125 *et seq.*).

This work is less of a monograph and more of a 'duograph' (two volumes), or even a 'polygraph' due to the number of invoked aspects. It takes the reader on a journey around the world, through different landscapes of globalisation, internationalisation, and integration. This journey leads us down meandering paths, sometimes without the aid of a GPS signal; it is therefore lengthy but adventurous.