

Afterword

Reading habits vary greatly. Some people start perusing a volume at the beginning and turn the pages until they reach the end as if it were a novel, while others consult the table of contents first and become absorbed only in the parts of particular interest to them. And there are those who skip the introduction and the concluding thoughts, believing either that these are merely formal parts containing no information, or such parts, where the lessons are drawn from the book – which they are able to do by themselves, in accordance with their own values.

In my view, the latter, the concluding comment, has a different role than the above described. The task of the writer of the afterword is to express subjective views on the topic – like the authors, though much more succinctly and without scientific rigour.

If the essays were limited to the scope defined by the title of the book, the volume would not have much added value. Essentially, we all know what the security challenges are. Answers and ways of resolving the problems are required – solutions that are realistic, that adapt to the intellectual, technical and financial capacities of the specific country; solutions that are effective and can at least thoroughly hinder, if not entirely prevent, harmful endeavours – and this is no small achievement.

In my opinion there are many useful thoughts in this volume from this point of view. The proposed solutions were put forward in a fortunate period in the sense that the months prior to the parliamentary elections are a period of deep thinking rather than active law-making.

The essays in the volume – some in themselves and others through broadening or developing ideas by the authors or readers – may lay the foundations for a security strategy (in a non-legal sense) and for a type of system-level solution which, either in whole or in part, may provide guidelines concerning security measures for the government to be formed after the parliamentary elections.

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