

III. REVIEWS

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**AGNIESZKA BIEŃCZYK-MISSALA, ZAPOBIEGANIE MASOWYM
NARUSZENIOM PRAW CZŁOWIEKA. MIĘDZYNARODOWE
INSTYTUCJE I INSTRUMENTY, WYDAWNICTWO NAUKOWE
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A monograph of Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala titled *Preventing massive violations of human rights. International institutions and instruments* were issued at the beginning of 2018. The publication, despite the relatively small volume, has a chance to claim one of the few (if not the only) items on the Polish publishing market that describe instruments of various nature to prevent violations of human rights. It is worth noting that so far neither Polish nor foreign researchers, the issue of prevention of mass violations of human rights has been frequently discussed. Therefore, it is worth noting both the content of the publication and the authoress herself.

Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala is a respected political scientist at the Department of Strategic Studies at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Warsaw. In addition, she is the authoress of many publications and conference speeches on the protection of human rights, prevention of violations of human rights and humanitarian law. She also gave guest lectures on the aforementioned scope, among others at the *School for Human Rights* of the *Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights* or the *Menachem Begin Heritage Center Museum*. She is a participant in cooperation with the European Network NOHA - Network on Humanitarian Studies, she also acted as an expert in the European TUNING Programme. Therefore, she has comprehensive experience in the field of the reviewed publication.

In 2013-2017, Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala was the manager of the project *Prevention of mass violations of human rights*. It was financed from the resources of the National Science Center, and the reviewed publication is the aftermath of the implemented project.

The reviewed publication consists of an introduction, 10 chapters, a summary, and bibliography. The substantive part of the monograph is divided

into two minor parts – the first part analyzes the competences and instruments of states and international organizations to prevent human rights violations, and the second part contains case studies. The structure of the reviewed monograph shows a deep rethink of the methodological assumptions of the publication by the authoress. The findings and the adopted methodology are presented in the preliminary issues. Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala presents the most important concepts, assumptions and research hypotheses, research methods and techniques as well as the current state of research on the issue. Conceptualization of the concepts used in the publication - especially of prevention and mass violations of human rights - is so valuable that the authoress referred to the categories, which defining can be problematic.

By adopting such an introduction structure, even the recipient who is not fluent in the subject taken in the book is introduced into the author's reflections on the methodological layer of work. Thus, the recipient broadening his knowledge even before moving on to the substantive part of the considerations on the subject of preventing violations of human rights.

The main subject of the publication is the involvement of states and international institutions to prevent massive violations of human rights. The authoress, as the goal of the monograph, set herself to systematize the involvement of the above entities in this matter.

In the first chapter, Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala discusses the role of the United Nations Organization and its bodies and institutions in the field of preventing violations of human rights. This chapter, given the importance of the UN in the world and its role in maintaining international peace and security, is the longest of all those in the publication; it also has the most extensive structure.

In the second chapter under the name *Competences of regional European institutions in the field of preventing mass violations of human rights*, Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala undertakes deliberations on the role and instruments of the European Union, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Chapter 3. presents the problem of preventing massive violations of human rights in non-European institutions. In this chapter, the authoress chose for analysis institutions such as the African Union, Economic Community of West African States, International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, Organization of American States as well as institutions and organizations in Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

The next chapters concern the prevention of massive violations of human rights in states foreign policy and state cooperation in this field (chapter 4.), forms of involvement of non-governmental organizations in this field (chapter 5.) and international instruments to prevent mass violations of human rights (chapter 6.). All issues described so far from the first part of the monograph.

The second part (chapters 7-10) deals with case studies. The analysis made in this part is based on the following pattern – first, the authoress draws up the context of a given conflict in which she familiarizes the recipient with its causes and consequences, secondly, she describes the institutions involved and

the instruments used, and then makes the results of actions aimed at preventing mass violation of rights human and assessing the effectiveness of these.

In this way, the authoress acquaints the recipient with the actions taken to protect human rights as part of the conflict in Chechnya, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, and Libya. The adopted uniform structure and synthetic description allow to quickly find interesting content. It also creates an ideal material for comparative analysis of instruments and tools as well as their effectiveness (or lack of efficiency).

When analyzing the publication as a whole, one should highlight the transparent structure of the monograph and the widely described methodological layer. For this reason, and because of the transparent, accessible - and at the same time very precise language - it is a position that can be used by both recipients with a large knowledge, as well as those interested in the subject, who want to broaden their knowledge in the presented topics. The culmination of the publication is a very detailed scientific bibliography. Noteworthy are also two comprehensive indexes: names and factual, which facilitate navigation after publication. Thus, the recipient has a chance to quickly find interesting issues.

The publication, however, creates a certain insufficiency for the recipient. The surprise is a short - almost five-page description of the European Union's significance in the field of human rights violation prevention and an eight-page analysis on the role of non-governmental organizations. Considering the methodological value of the work, it should be presumed that the descriptions are a reflection of the importance of individual organizations and institutions for world peace, but after an extensive first chapter (concerning the UN), the authoress awakens the reader's appetite, which may be disappointed with the description, which is in fact limited. This, however, compensates for the reference to the rich literature of the subject.

Also, the second part of the monograph (case studies) causes a dissatisfaction in the recipient. The conflicts described do not exhaust the broad spectrum of events in which the global public was faced with the observation of human rights violations on a mass scale. The analysis does not include such conflicts as the war in the former Yugoslavia or the 1st Gulf War. It can, however, become an impulse for Agnieszka Bieńczyk-Missala to undertake further research on the subject matter, which remains to be counted on.

These deficiencies, however, do not include publications; as indicated by the accessible language, high precision in the analysis of phenomena and instruments to prevent violations of human rights and comprehensive reference to literature, the publication is highly recommendable to recipients only exploring the subject matter, as well as those who want to deepen their already existing knowledge. The value of the monograph also becomes an interdisciplinary approach to the analyzed issue: the authoress discusses issues relevant to international relations, international law, economics or military. It is also one of the few publications dealing with the issue, which is its undisputed value.