

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS — RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN THE USA

VLADIMÍR SOJÁK

The study was written in connection with the gathering of material, research, and preparation for a larger work. Its objective is to sum up the given problems. By way of introduction, it mentions the principal centers of research and teaching of international relations in the United States, important magazines and textbooks as well as more extensive theoretical works and reviews. It emphasizes the quantitative expansion that has been achieved in the sphere.

In the exposition of principal schools of thought and trends, it starts with the so-called realistic school based primarily on the theory of power and balance of power using as examples especially the works of H. J. Morgenthau. Although disagreement is expressed with the absolute value attached to the element of power in Morgenthau's theories, it nevertheless positively evaluates the emphasis he puts on the necessity of proportionality in developing foreign policy particularly in connection with new qualitative elements introduced into international relations by nuclear weapons. Further, the conception of functionalism and institutionalism is explained.

Great attention is paid to the so-called new approaches in research and teaching of international relations in the USA. The failure of the so-called classical approaches in the analysis of contemporary international relations as well as the influence of the general ascendance of the so-called scientism in social sciences are seen as the sources of these developments. This is reflected not only in the strengthening of influence of the sociological approach but especially in the application of quantitative and mathematical methods along with the utilization of modern computer techniques. The principal features identified here are the ascendance of behaviourism, the theory of decision making, the theory of games, and simulation.

Special attention is drawn to the growing role of the so-called strategic studies dealing primarily with the problems of war in international relations although they are, as a rule, presented in relation to the problems of peace. It is shown at the same time, however, that a certain upsurge has taken place of progressive tendencies striving for more objective research into the true problems of peace in the world.

On the whole, the necessity is stressed of studying the development and achievements of bourgeois science in this important sphere. This is especially true of the United States which by virtue of their international standing, foreign policy, and the extent of research and teaching of foreign relations play such an outstanding role in the whole capitalist world.

A broad view is taken by the author of the study of international relations in the USA and its relation to practice — be it the foreign policy proper or the general effect on population in all the various forms — from the teaching of students right up to the means of mass propaganda. It is understood as a component of the overall world struggle waged by bourgeois society in its endeavour to stand up to the challenge of the theory of scientific socialism and the practice of socialist countries.

The author shows that in the sphere of studies of international relations just as in all other social-science departments, bourgeois science is limited by the boundaries imposed by its class approach. It can go beyond them neither by attempting to create a solid political philosophy of international relations, nor by means of various methodical approaches to which it attempts to attach absolute values. It is pointed out that the achievements of bourgeois science must be dealt with in a discriminating fashion and the broad scale of approaches differentiated. At one end of the scale, there are the most vociferous representatives of anticommunism as well as followers of abstract approaches divorced from reality and stressing their nonpolitical orientation. At the other end stand those who recognize and with sufficient accuracy evaluate the reality of international relations; they contribute not only objectively true information but dealing with the most fundamental questions of war and peace they reach objectively progressive conclusions that become points of contact for discussions with Marxist scientists.