



REGIMEN

Réseau d'Etudes sur la Globalisation et la Gouvernance Internationale et les Mutations de l'Etat et des Nation

CALL FOR PAPERS

***The State between
Interdependence and Power
in Contemporary World :
a reassessment***

A study day organised by
the working group REGIMEN

of the Belgian Association of Political Sciences

with

ISPOLE  and CECRI

edt
Science politique


EGMONT

Royal Institute
for International Relations

The US Embassy in Brussels

Tuesday 5th May 2015

At the Ateliers des FUCaM

For decades, the debate on the place of the State in International Relations has often taken place in a perspective of power. Opposing “realist” and “liberal” schools of theories of international relations often lead to irreconcilable disagreements between both sides. However, despite their disagreements, both used to see the structure of international relations as based on the mere interstate principle. The State, a clearly defined political and legal unit, invested with the monopoly of power, was the only recognized international actor. Later, I R analysts awoke to a new international reality that appeared to be the consequence of multiple evolutions and trends which began decades earlier but remained mostly unnoticed. Indeed the evolution of international relations since the end of the Cold War has plainly revealed the emergence of a multipolar world system, but whose poles are of variable and unequal powers. The complexity that such a variable and evolving multipolarity confers on the international system is reinforced by the fact that the latter is not only driven by power relationships between States, but is also significantly and increasingly structured by relations between various actors (States, businesses, IGOs, NGOs,...) along with the phenomenon of growing interdependence (Grevi). In addition, the new emerging global configuration is underpinned by a series of trends that are sometimes contradictory, sometimes converging. Such developments have been grasped through concepts such as "glocalization", 'frangmentation' (Rosenau)... In a parallel and intersecting development, the transformation of the role of the various international actors and the new challenges they have to deal with have contributed to the emergence of the phenomenon of governance, often defined as a process of arrangement and regulation between actors of various kinds (Czempiel).

However, this process of governance, which dialectical in nature, has been subject to the many contradictions and tensions generated by the dynamics of integration as well as fragmentation characterizing globalization. The so-called integration processes have left at the margin of the system many regions striving with poverty, conflict and a wide variety of social trouble. Concomitantly, they have not been able to respond to the multiple challenges that globalization poses to the mechanisms of social integration. In addition and up until now, the tensions remain high between the ambition of strengthened regulation and crisis prevention mechanisms on the one hand, and the imperfection of such mechanisms (Held) on the other hand. Furthermore, many anti-system forces gained momentum in the last couple of decades, ranging from anti-globalization movements here to transnational terrorist groups there.

These tensions and contradictions generate a large number of uncertainties as the apparently infinite multiplication of the use of the word “crisis” and related terms attempts to cover. References abound to : the current world financial and economic “crisis”, a security “crisis” characterized by the rise of new challenges and new dimensions (including transnational); an environmental and climate “crisis”, the energy “crisis”, natural resources challenge, a “crisis” of meaning; tensions around the global commons...

None of these trends that underpins the contemporary global context leaves the State and traditional notions of power unaffected. There is therefore a need to reassess the place of the State as it faces all the challenges of a much more complex international reality. The study day shall be dedicated to a general reflection on such a key issue of the contemporary developments and their impact on the State. Aimed at scientists and academics interested in European, international issues, foreign policy, and more broadly the role of the State at the international level, this scientific meeting will offer the opportunity to share thoughts of participants and cross their approaches with that of specialists in the study of the international system such as Hongying Wang (University of Waterloo, Canada) and Dawisson Belém Lopez (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil).

Language of the study day : English.

The deadline for the submission of the paper proposal : February 25 2015

Proposals will undergo peer review and notifications of acceptance will be sent out by **April 10 2015**.

A selection of the papers will be collected in an edited volume.

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