

**KEEPING PEACE IN TROUBLED TIMES: PERSPECTIVES FROM DIFFERENT
DISCIPLINES ON WAR AND PEACE, EDITED BY NINA KÄSEHAGE.
SPRINGER, CHAM, 2024. XV, 266 PP. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-56038-5>.**

REVIEW BY:

ANZHELA MNATSAKANYAN* 
Yerevan State University

Abstract

The book comparatively analyzes past, present and possible future war and crisis situations. In doing so, the authors pay special attention to the nature of global conflicts and international actors, which international organizations and diplomacy of different countries are working to overcome. The book also examines the complexities of relations between governments of small and large states, NATO, the UN, intergovernmental and regional organizations, CSOs and transnational corporations, which despite their interdependence are still far from sustainable development. The authors discuss various issues of diplomacy, international relations theory, Eurasian politics, the European Union, international organizations, threats and challenges, global civil society, religion and culture as they relate to peoples in a complex world.

Keywords: international relations, global security, peaceful coexistence, political instability, terrorism, online radicalization, public diplomacy, conflict resolution, peace mission, reintegration, peacebuilding.

Maintaining peace in troubled times, modern conflictology turned out to be unprepared, one might say, caught unawares in the face of a new threat of global upheavals. Therefore, a thorough comprehensive study of conflicts, both internal and international, is an urgent task for social scientists. The relevance of the research topic of this book lies in the fact that in the conditions of an increasing threat to the existence of society, a painful process of finding means of survival is underway. New social theories and strategies are being developed that, taking into account the peculiarities of today, allow us to identify and resolve emerging contradictions, conflicts and

* **Anzhela Mnatsakanyan** is a PhD in Political Science of the Chair of Political Science of the Faculty of International Relations at Yerevan State University. Email: anzhela.mnatsakanyan@ysu.am. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3546-6535>.



effectively manage social processes. The science of conflicts, including international ones, is called upon to serve this purpose. It should be noted that a sufficiently developed theory of conflicts and crises in international relations does not exist in nature at the moment, and it needs further development.

An international conflict is a specific form of international relations, and is part of them. Conflicts between states have a huge impact on many aspects of world politics, on the life of the state, societies, and individuals. The general state of the international situation also has a significant impact on the state and dynamics of international conflicts, contributing either to their settlement or to their further aggravation. This relationship is clearly visible in the practice of modern international relations.

A person and society, subject to serious influences from events occurring in the world, need to know why certain phenomena of international life occur, whether they can be managed and controlled. Therefore, conflicts, being one of the forms of relations between states, are becoming the subject of constant study by science today. It is necessary to know the influence of conflicts, crises, and wars on the system of international relations in order to be able to regulate relations between states in the world society. The threat of conflicts spreading around the world, as well as in close proximity to state borders, stimulates the interest of society in understanding the causes of conflicts, the processes of their development, the behavior of participants, as well as the results of their consequences. With the help of knowledge obtained as a result of systematic study of conflicts, it is possible to identify an appropriate approach to their settlement, take control of their escalation and find a reliable way to predict the possibility of their occurrence. This will help to avoid destructive and negative consequences of conflicts in the international arena, minimize their destabilizing impact on the world community or a particular state. In the conditions of modern international relations, an interconnected, interdependent and dynamically developing world, the role of policymakers is steadily increasing. The destinies of people, states, continents depend on the decisions they make. Therefore, an urgent task of modern science is to study the problems of decision-making by politicians in historically defined situations that are important for the foreign and military policy of their countries. Understanding the patterns of behavior that arise in crisis situations, accompanied by stress, lack of information and time, will help to more effectively influence future conflicts and crises and will help to reduce their likely escalation.

Throughout the history of human society, war has been an invariable companion of its evolution, during which states and civilizations emerged, developed, flourished and collapsed, and historical eras changed. Maintaining peace in modern troubled times, as well as in the process of understanding wars and armed conflicts that took place in the history of civilization, military-theoretical thought was formed and developed, which ultimately transformed into a number of scientific theories and concepts. Research in the military field has acquired scientific status and provided broad opportunities for further understanding of the processes and phenomena associated with war, on a scientific and theoretical basis.

Military issues, understanding war as a social phenomenon, its nature, its eliminability and inevitability are becoming an important object of socio-political struggle. Various political parties, organizations and movements appeal to the masses

with their interpretations of war, its nature, with support or criticism of the position of governments, with their programs for ridding the historical process of military costs and disasters. At all times there were unresolved questions regarding the nature and essence of war, as well as the content of the main definitions that determine the specifics of this phenomenon in relation to a specific historical era, including modern political reality. But at different stages of human development, these were different questions, and scientists attempted to solve them.

The relevance of the research in this book is determined by the following:

- Firstly, the scientific and theoretical significance of views on conflicts, lessons of peacebuilding and war as a social phenomenon, since the solution of many practical and theoretical issues depends on them, from defining the subject of military science to developing the main directions of military policy and preparing the country and the armed forces for possible wars;
- Secondly, the need for a deeper development of political thought about war to resolve the problems of regional and world communities and states, their armed forces, the realization that the formation and practical application of qualitatively new views and concepts of military theory is impossible without understanding the historical experience of military and political activity;
- Thirdly, the complexity and inconsistency of ideas about war, which are reflected in the concepts of war developed in modern conditions, in which scientists try, on the one hand, to take into account the changes taking place in the modern world and build virtual structures of the future, and on the other hand, they cannot completely free themselves from the stereotypes and dogmas of the pre-nuclear era;
- Fourthly, the need for scientific analysis of changes in the concepts of war and taking these changes into account by military-theoretical thought in our country, when developing strategic planning documents of different countries and regions, implementing military construction, conducting military reforms and transforming the armed forces;
- Fifthly, the acuteness and importance of views on war in the modern country, since, on the one hand, there are significant differences in the interpretation of the nature and essence of war as a political phenomenon, and on the other hand, superficial opportunistic judgments about war are replicated in the public consciousness, which prevents an adequate reflection of reality and the resolution of problems in the course of military construction, reduces the effectiveness of activities to ensure the national security of all countries and peoples of the world.

Due to the above circumstances, as well as in view of the high social and political significance of scientific and theoretical knowledge about war and peace, the study of theoretical and methodological problems associated with the political scientific understanding of this phenomenon is one of the most important research tasks.

Conceptualization of war and peace, doctrinal consolidation of military and theoretical views on war and military conflicts, forms and methods of armed struggle is a global trend, manifested in the content and evolution of military policy, practice of military development, construction and development of components of the military

organization of the state and armed forces in the leading states of the world. This circumstance is due to a fundamental change in the situation in the world and the desire of a number of states to ensure their leading role in international relations, as well as the needs of forming structures for ensuring national security, capable of adequately responding to threats and challenges of a military nature.

Consistently and purposefully, the processes of doctrinal consolidation of military and theoretical views and military construction based on modern concepts of war are carried out by Russia, Turkey, Iran, postmodern jihadism and various terrorist groups, thereby trying to realize their goals and achieve military-political superiority over other members of the international community. A distinctive feature of the doctrinal consolidation of military-theoretical views and concepts of war in these states is the active use of the latest achievements in the field of production and use of weapons, as well as dual-use technologies. An example can be the transformation of the idea of war and peace in jihadist online radicalization, etc.

Funding statement

This research was funded through a Social Sciences internal scientific grant from Yerevan State University, and the opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Yerevan State University.

Conflict of interests

The author declares no ethical issues or conflicts of interest in this research.

Ethical standards

The author affirms this research did not involve human subjects.

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