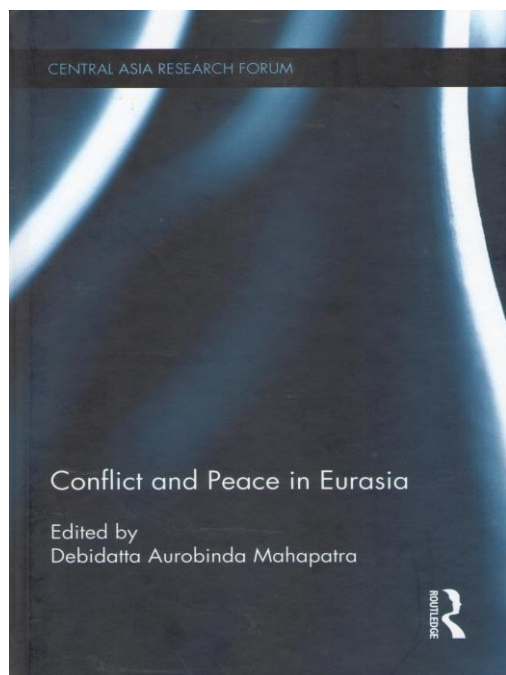

FARKAS, Flórián**Conflict and Peace in Eurasia****Editor:** Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra0**Title:** Conflict and Peace in Eurasia**Publisher:** Routledge**Year of publishing:** 2013**Language:** English**Number of pages:**216**ISBN:** 978-0-415-63278-2 (hbk)
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A significant number of edited volumes in the field of politics, economics and related sciences are born due to publication “pressure”; a phenomenon known both for editors and especially for authors in order to accommodate the prescriptions of their academic institutions. Volumes falling into this category are in the best case read by a certain number of peers and are totally dry and uninteresting for the general public.

Luckily there are exceptions and the volume ‘*Conflict and Peace in Eurasia*’, edited by Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra and released by Routledge at the beginning of this year is a clear example for this. The reader finds in it 11 articles that deal with carefully selected conflicts in the post-Soviet and adjacent regions. As such it brings a new perspective, since no single volume deals with these conflicts using a contemporary view and approach.

In the introduction of the editor, in which he in the first instance presents the major perspectives on Eurasia itself, he also contextualizes the different conflicts with an emphasis on conflict resolution towards a lasting peace. The introduction is then followed by the following papers:

- ✚ Johan Galtung: A perspective on conflict and peace
- ✚ Emanuela C. Del Re: From the Balkans to the Caucasus – Paradoxes of the precedents in a post-Balkan perspective

- ✚ Andrew Foxall: Mapping ethnic relations – Cartography and conflict management in the North Caucasus, Russia
- ✚ Françoise Companjen: Complexities of the peace process in Nagorno-Karabakh
- ✚ Françoise Companjen and Abel Polese: Subtle line between self-defence and war – South Ossetia 2008
- ✚ Dmitry V. Shlapentokh: Chechen conflict viewed through the prism of National Bolshevism
- ✚ Sébastien Peyrouse and Marlène Laruelle: Kyrgyzstan – Conflict and prospects of peace
- ✚ Jason E. Strakes: Southern Kurdistan - From conflict zone to subregional integration in Greater Eurasia
- ✚ Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra: Prospects of inclusive peace, perception of players and stakes involved in post-9/11 Afghanistan
- ✚ Henryk Szadziwski: Resolving Uyghur conflict through a participatory rights-based approach to development
- ✚ Seema Shekhawat: Linking peace and development – An imperative for conflict transformation in Kashmir

Commencing the chain of articles with that of veteran peace academics Johan Galtung is a masterstroke; that paper defines the context in which peace and conflict resolution can be achieved in the coming decennia. Then a significant number of examples are taken from the Caucasus, for several reasons: some of the conflicts (e.g. the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia) have far-reaching interlinkages with other conflict zones or geopolitical conflict of interest of great powers, or have a major long-term impact on the Eurasian zone itself (e.g. the Chechen conflict, wherein major players move from an ethnic based standpoint to an international one).

In this group I have found one of my favorite articles, namely that of Dmitry V. Shlapentokh. Not only its topic is of crucial importance, but stylistically it is one of the most enjoyable, too. The editor's own paper on Afghanistan is also a masterpiece in grasping the essence of the conflict and sketching its possible outcomes during the next crucial years in front of us. Stylistically it is also very readable and enjoyable, even for the casual reader.

Jason E. Strakes's research on the sub-national interlinkages among the different actors in the Kurdistan region is a real eye-opener.

I recommend fully this edited volume to everyone who is interested in the major conflicts in the Eurasian zone and to the possibilities of their resolution. The volume is not only informational but is also highly readable and enjoyable not only for the expert but also for the interested layman.



OUR AUTHORS

BÉRCZI, Szaniszló

Physicist-astronomer who made a new synthesis of evolution of matter according to the material hierarchy versus great structure building periods. This model is a part of his Lecture Note Series Book on the Eötvös University. He also organized a research group on evolution of matter in the Geonomy Scientific Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Science (with Béla Lukács). He wrote the first book in Hungary about planetary science *From Crystals to Planetary Bodies* (also he was the first candidate of earth sciences in topics planetology). He built with colleagues on the Eötvös University the Hungarian University Surveyor (Hunveyor) experimental space probe model for teachers for training purposes and development of new constructions in measuring technologies.

FARKAS, Flórián

Mr. Farkas was born in 1967 in Kolozsvár/Cluj/Klausenburg. He holds a M.Sc. degree from Technical University of Budapest, Hungary and Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan, France and an MBA degree from Henley Management College, UK. Since 1992 he is living in the Netherlands. He cofounded the Foundation Mikes International in 2001 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

MARÁ CZ, László

Born in 1960 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Received his degree from the University of Groningen. Between 1984 and 1990 he was with the University of Groningen as assistant professor. Between 1990 and 1992 as a Niels Stensen scholar he was with MTI, MTA and CNRS as a guest researcher. Since 1992 Mr. Mará cz is lecturer of the East-European Institute of the University of Amsterdam. His areas of research cover general syntax, Hungarian grammar, the relationship of Hungarians and the West. Author of numerous scientific publications and books.

MIRABILE, Paul

After having travelled and worked for many years in Africa and in Europe, Mr. Mirabile enrolled at the University of Vincennes-Saint-Denis, Paris VIII where he obtained his doctoral thesis in 1986 in mediaeval History, literature and linguistics: *La Genèse de la Chanson de Roland: la Théorie de l'Entonnoir* under the direction of Bernard Cerquiglini. Since then he has taught languages and literature, philology and History either at universities or secondary schools in Turkey, South India, China, Ireland and Russia whilst doing research on the Mediaeval Eurasian

Koine. He has contributed articles and essays on mediaeval History, religions and philosophy in *Stratégique* (F.E.D.N), *Contrastes*, *Liber Mirabilis*, *Nietzsche-Studien*, *Journal of Armenian Studies*, *Journal of Dravidic Studies*, *Armenian International Reporter*, *La Chine au Présent*, *Al Amanecer* (Istanbul: Judio-Spanish journal), *Chasse-Marée* and in university reviews in China and Russia. He is currently teaching in Istanbul.

MISHRA, Manoj Kumar

Earned his B.A. degree in Political Sciences from the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, India in 2001, then an M.A. and M. Phil. Degrees in Political Sciences from the University of Hyderabad, India in 2003 and 2005. Mr. Mishra submitted his PhD thesis at the department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad in 2012 and joined Ravenshaw University as a guest lecturer. He has published widely on international policy topics.

MURAKEÖZY, Éva Patrícia

Born in 1971, Budapest, Hungary. Received her diploma (M.Sc.) in Agricultural Sciences and her Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Plant Physiology, in 1995 and 2001, respectively, both from the Szent István University of Gödöllő, Hungary. In 2003 she graduated as an engineer in Plant Protection at the University of Veszprém, Hungary and worked for the Hungarian Plant and Soil Protection Service. Between 2004 and 2005 she worked as a postdoctoral student at the Technopôle Brest-Iroise in Brest, France. She is specialized in the physiology and molecular biology of halophyte plants. Between 2007 and 2012 she studied fine arts at the Academy of Fine Arts of The Hague, The Netherlands until her graduation in 2012. Her special field of interest is the artistic depiction of organic growth processes.

OBRUSÁNSZKY, Borbála

Historian, orientalist. She completed her studies at the University Eötvös Loránd in Budapest between 1992 and 1997 in history and Mongol civilization. This is followed by a postgradual study at the Mongol State University, where she is awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1999. Between 2000 and 2002 she worked as external consultant of the Asia Center at the University of Pécs, and organized the Mongol programs of the Shambala Tibet Center. During this period she participated in several expeditions in Mongolia and China. Ms. Obrusánszky is member and/or founder of several Hungarian scientific associations and she is author of numerous books and articles, and regularly provides analyses on Central-Asia in the scientific press. Next to that she is the editor-in-chief of a weekly magazine.

PLÁJÁS, Ildikó Zonga

Received a B.A. degree in Hungarian ethnology and cultural anthropology and Hungarian language and literature at the Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania in 2005. In 2006 she received an M.A. degree in Complex Cultural Research from the same university. Her main areas of research include the visual representation of the Roma people – racist, discriminatory and exclusionary practices in the construction of visual discourses in Eastern European societies (2008-present) and the visual representation of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania (Romania) in documentaries (2005-present). Ms. Plájás organized several conferences and she is the author of numerous articles.

SARBASSOVA, Guldana Aktaevna

Studied Social Sciences at A. Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University (Kazakhstan, 2006), and at Middle East Technical University (Turkey, 2008); then earned a Ph.D. degree at the Kazakh Academy of Science, Institute of Linguistics named after A. Baitursunoglu (Kazakhstan, 2011). She is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

SENGUPTA, Rakesh

Mr. Sengupta holds a Master degree in Chemistry from University of Calcutta, India. Currently he is pursuing Ph.D. in Cognitive Science at Center for Neural and Cognitive Science, University of Hyderabad, India and a visiting research scholar at Center for Mind/Brain Sciences (CiMec), University of Trento, Italy. Some of his past work includes presenting a poster on Quantum Molecular Dynamics in Theoretical Chemistry Symposium, India (2006), working as Experience Designer in Navaraga Information Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (2008-2009), working as research assistant and co-ordinator of Mission Project for Virtual Labs in International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (2009-2011). His current interests are Computational and Cognitive Neuroscience, Philosophy of Science, History of Ideas, Philosophy of Mind, Rational and Social Choice Theory.