

The last part also returns to the past: it covers a multiplicity of inspiring new pedagogical approaches to some of the most frequently taught and anthologized Jewish American texts. A fascinating reading of *Yekl*, for example, highlights Abraham Cahan's ethnic humor and his thoughtful portraits of immigrant women. Four essays in the volume address various challenges posed to teachers of Jewish American literature abroad. In a multiethnic course in Iraq, for instance, the answer is a collaboratively written poetry book by a Jewish American and a Palestinian American author, while an example from Germany shows that, in teaching Philip Roth's *Goodbye, Columbus*, the motif of food provides students unfamiliar with Judaism and Jewish American culture with a key to the Jewish experience in the United States.

The high-quality essays in *Teaching Jewish American Literature* are not only historically and culturally contextualized but also theoretically informed. Many contributions helpfully give suggestions about questions for class discussions and writing assignments. Finally, this thought-provoking volume is an indispensable tool to present and aspiring teachers in the field and a real treasure-trove of pertinent information to the rest of us interested in Jewish American literature.

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Joseph S. Nye Jr., *Do Morals Matter?: Presidents and Foreign Policy from FDR to Trump*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020, 272 pp. ISBN 13-978-0190935962.

Since the classic magnum opus by Nicola Machiavelli, a perspective has been established that there is no morality in politics and international relations. Later intellectuals of the Enlightenment and Renaissance revised these concepts by humanist thinkers like Hugo Grotius, who played a key role in establishing the foundations of international humanitarian law. Human evolution, technological advancement, and advancement in various sciences and culture led to the humanization of life. Therefore, foreign policy as a component of human activity could not bypass Joseph S. Nye Jr. who is a living legend of International Relations (IR) science, influential and prominent thinker and a bright representative of the liberal school.

Professor Nye is one of the strong pillars of the Harvard School of International Relations and it seriously impacts International Relations (IR) discipline's academic and practical development. Professor Nye has been researching the theory of international relations for more than five decades. In his previous significant works, such as "Is the American Century Over?" (2015), the international scholar focused his attention on the role and place of the United States in the new world that emerged after the collapse of the bipolar system of international relations. Nye has been particularly influential in promoting the concept of soft power in the foreign policy debate.

The monograph, *Do Morals Matter?: Presidents and Foreign Policy from FDR to Trump* presents a provoking argument about the scope and role of morality in the political decision-making process. The book consists of nine large chapters, each exploring separate periods in U.S history of foreign policy ranging from the end of WWII to Donald Trump. However, Nye's research extends beyond the notion about morality; it examines theoretical issues such as American exceptionalism, the influence of the liberal and realist International Relations (IR) schools on American foreign policy. Studies have shown that regardless of beliefs and religious affiliation, morality is innate in all human beings and moreover moral judgement and reasoning are inseparable part of human nature.

The book is a broad and in-depth theoretical discussion of international relations (IR). The book explores a wide range of theoretical concepts of international relations, provides a lot of empirical data and historical facts. At the same time, Professor Nye accompanies each example and case with deep theoretical and empirical analysis. Much attention is given to theoretical arguments and historical events of the Cold War era. Nye's attention is not limited to the issue of morality in foreign policy but rather he investigates the central events from philosophical and historical perspectives. The author is deeply convinced that the end of the Cold War without significant bloodshed was a major achievement in American foreign policy. Since 1945, the United States lived with a bipolar balance of power, and for almost four decades the ideological and nuclear threat from the Soviet Union was a pressing problem of U.S foreign policy. By the end of 1991 both the Soviet Union and the Cold War faded away. The ideas about Soviet power turned out to be misleading. The author forwards a question about how the empire declined and fell on its knees without a war. An unusual combination of luck and skill were the main determinants. Meanwhile if the stern KGB chief Yuri Andropov had not died of kidney failure and Gorbachev

had not come to power in 1985, the Soviet threat might have persisted for another ten years or so. Although the opposite happened, Gorbachev's efforts at perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (opening) accelerated the decline of the Soviet Union (130).

From the perspective of theoretical school, Nye unsurprisingly stands on the side of liberal thinkers. Concurrently he notes that due to the complexity of the modern world, the most acceptable is an approach that would include different international relations (IR) schools. Thus, Nye refers to Stephen Walt's argument "if realists had been at the helm of US foreign policy for the past 20 years, it is likely that a number of costly failures would have been avoided." Although he may be right, many variations of realism and liberalism exist. Realism is a broad trend and not a single category with clear policy implications. Of course, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld considered themselves realists. During the period of 2016 presidential debate, both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton said that the United States was responsible for preventing mass casualties in Syria, but neither of them advocated military intervention. Although some commentators claim that the promotion of democracy has "turned into a self-designation of America as a special nation" "there is a huge difference between the promotion of democracy by coercive and non-violent means. The broadcasts of the Voice of America and the National Endowment for Democracy cross international borders in a completely different way than the 82nd Airborne Division (35).

Nye is that the emergence of morality in US foreign policy should be sought in the origins of American exceptionalism and has three dimensions. Enlightenment liberalism, valued individual freedom and rights are believed to be universal rights, and this is the main reason why the United States is widely regarded to be exceptional. The nature of the United States statehood is extremely liberal in nature - "an ideological vision of a way of life based on freedom in politics, economics, and society (2)." Secondly, another thread of American exclusivity is embedded in the Scripture that they are the chosen people and in the Puritanical guilt of those who fled from Great Britain to worship God in a cleaner way in the new world. Such high aspirations led to anxiety as to whether they met these unachievable heights (3). Lastly, the third source of exclusivity stems from the enormous size and location of America. Already in the nineteenth century, de Tocqueville noted the special geographical position of America. Protected by two oceans and bordered by weaker neighbours. In the nineteenth century the United States mainly focused on its expansion to the West and tried to

avoid entanglement in the global balance of power, which was concentrated in Europe (3).

The central thought of the political scientist, which can be traced in all chapters, is the role of President Woodrow Wilson. The 28th US president, who belonged to the classical liberal school of thought and called himself an idealist, also played a key role in strengthening moral principles in foreign policy. Nye pays much attention to the contribution of President Wilson and alludes to his legacy throughout the book. Moreover, he compares the presidents of the Cold War era with Wilson by making him an idol of morality in politics. According to Nye, the most immoral president in modern US history was Donald Trump (169-170). It should be emphasized that Joseph Nye's book is a brilliant scientific study on this important topic in modern conflict and complex international relations (IR). This book is a valuable contribution to the studies of the theory of international relations (IR) and U.S foreign policy.

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Christopher J. Leahy. *President without a Party; The Life of John Tyler*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2020, 528 Pages. ISBN 978-0-8071-7254-4. \$39.95

“His Accidency” was one of several derogatory names that President John Tyler (1841-1845) was given by his detractors. Ironically, most of his detractors were to be found in the same political party that in the election of 1840 had nominated him as vice president. When President William Henry Harrison died after just three weeks in office, Tyler, who had not even arrived in Washington, D.C. yet, became the first vice president in America to be elevated to the presidency.

John Tyler's road to the White House was indeed odd: When Henry Clay, the towering figure in the Whig Party, surprisingly lost the nomination for presidential candidate to William Henry Harrison, it proved difficult to find