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(rec.): **Klaus Dodds**

Border Wars. The Conflict that Will Define our Future

Penguin Random House, London 2022, pp. 275

Klaus Dodds is a professor of geopolitics at Royal Holloway, University of London. He writes on a number of topics and wide range of ‘geopolitical cases’. His an author of well-known books such as: *Geopolitics: A very short introduction; Geographies, Genders and Geopolitics of James Bond* (Palgrave 2017, with Lisa Funnell); *Pink Ice: Britain and the South Atlantic Empire*, and several other books. Some of his book, like *Arctica* or *Geopolitics: A very short introduction* are published in Poland². His books are internationally recognised and professor Dodds is one of the most prominent critical geopoliticians in the world.

The book, *Border Wars. The Conflict that will Define our Future*, consist of introduction, nine chapters, afterword, further reading, acknowledgments and index. The book contains 8 maps. All three parts cover different period from 1989 till 1999. The book covers a rare topic: borders. As Klaus Dodds is one of the most prominent critical geopolitician we can expect the book to be written from that perspective and it is. In that book author writes about ‘everyday border’ and ‘hostile environments’. This is perhaps first book in which an author discuss modern state borders from different angels. In Introduction Author makes an imporant remarks about today’s nature of border for West countries citizens, as we may assume, that borders ‘can be largely invisible in our lives and barely

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² K. Dodds, J. Woodward (2022). *Arktyka*. Przekł. Piotr Piotrowski. Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego; K. Dodds (2022). *Geopolityka. Krótkie wprowadzenie*. Przekł. Piotr Wilczyński. Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego.

monitored, except in times of emergencies such as pandemics, civil disorder, natural disasters and wars' (p. XIII).

In the first part of the book Author discuss the meaning of border in todays politics. We can read about lots of exemples of 'border clash'. Like between Guyana and Venezuela or Guyana and Suriname and how disputes over borders can be outsourced to foreign investors (p. 14–15). Other examples consider case of Jerusalem. Author conclusion is of remerkable importance, that: „Contested borders are unsettling and painful”. The second chapter is dedicated to the problem of moving borders. Moving by natural forces or the force of nature. This problem concern high-altitude borders – like between Argentina and Chile or India with neighbor countries. Next chapter, chapter three is about 'watery borders'. Here we have an example of River Dunabe as a mobile international border and of good international cooperation between european countries. At the moment there are perhaps 286 shared rivers around the world. Just approx. 90 of them have water managment plans. Also the importance of seabed is rising the concerns that it may ignitiate a potential geopolitical disruption. Chapter four is about 'vanishing borders'. Here conclusions are strictly connected with the theory of anthropocene. In prognosis, '40 per cent of urban land globally is going to experience regular flooding' by 2030 (p. 95). We can expect that water rise posses potential to disrupt relations between countries. But the problem is very urgent. Around 70 countries are going to be affected by sea-level rise. In near future we will witness vanishing countries, that will lost their exclusie economic zones. This fact will make a great challenge to international community and to the citizens of vanishing countries. Question like: should they keep their rights to EEZ even though their country vanished underwater?, need to be asked before that will happen. In chapter five Author focuses his work on 'no man's land' it means on high seas and other territories of special status, like demilitaraised zones. Another important remark in that book, is that: 'areas beyond national jurisdiction are integral to global geopolitics, and the no man's lands that are the high seas are in the crosshairs of competing interests' (p. 134–135). In part seven Author writes about unrecognised borders. Like in Cyprus or in Arctica. Chapter seven is dedicated to smart borders, which are more common than any time before.

Chapter eight is about border in outer space which may occur in future, due to space mining and other activities. Chapter nine is about the relations between states borders and viruses.

The whole book is a well written political sciences book. It also provides valuable insights into the current state of the questons of borders.

References

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