

Comparing Foreign Policy: Theories, Findings and Methods, edited by James N. Rosenau, (New York: The Halsted Press, 1974) 442 pp.

Early in 1967 a group of scholars met for a three day session of collaboration to develop ideas for a series of books dealing with foreign policy. Out of this meeting there arose the conviction that not enough was known about the field of foreign policy, leading to the creation of the Inter-University Comparative Foreign Policy (ICFP) project. Close cooperation over a six year period, by scholars from over ten universities across the country, has produced a diverse series of essays representing a common commitment to comparative analysis in foreign policy research. The aim of the ICFP was to expand Rosenau's pre-theory, in which the need for comparative inquiries into foreign policy phenomena is emphasized. Indeed, the focal point of most of the essays in *Comparing Foreign Policies* is on Rosenau's own concept of adaptive behavior in foreign policy.

Rosenau defines foreign policy as:

... the authoritative actions which governments take — or are committed to take — in order, either to preserve the desirable aspects of the international environment or to alter its undesirable aspects.

While admitting the necessity for applied research in foreign policy analysis, Rosenau is convinced that a comparative approach, though slow in producing results for more expedient problems, can contribute to a broader understanding of the problems that do arise, thus enabling a greater capacity to resolve those problems in the future. In this area of pure research, the particular aspect of foreign policy to be analyzed is left to the discretion of the researcher. The only limitations being the researcher's ability to relate the comparison to the overall subject and that the researcher follow the proper methodological rules.

The essays have been grouped into three general categories following Rosenau's introductory essay in Part I. Emphasis is placed on a theoretical approach in Part II. Here the tremendous influence of Rosenau's pioneering efforts in the areas of theory and comparison can be strongly detected. Taken as a whole, they present many new aspects, either expanding upon or contradicting the basic concepts previously established by Rosenau. In Part III the heart of the comparative approach is presented, concerning itself, primarily, with empirical findings. Beginning with an extension of Rosenau's "pre-theory" of 1966, Rosenau and Hoggard find that internal factors are powerful in the explanation of international interaction than external or systematic factors. This finding acted as a departure point for the further investigations that followed, for the determining factors in foreign policy analysis. Each of the preceding essays in Part III deal with a particular element derived from the initial conclusion reached by Rosenau and Hoggard. The final section of *Comparing Foreign Policies*, Part IV, deals with the methodological problems arising in the realm of pure research of foreign policy phenomena.

As the field of foreign policy analysis, using the comparative approach, is still relatively new, the seventeen essays included in this volume comprise, more or less, a "state of the art" survey. Though extremely complex in nature,

Comparing Foreign Policies: Theories, Finding and Methods will enable analysts of almost any related field, to investigate the dynamics by which the nation-state of today deal with their international environments.

ROBIN F. GAUL
Editor-in-chief
*Towson State Journal of
International Affairs,
Towson State College*

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED — SOME OF WHICH MAY BE REVIEWED IN FUTURE ISSUES

- Blackburn, Robin, *Explosion in a Subcontinent*, New York: Penguin Books, 1975.
- Cantor, Robert D., *Voting Behavior and Presidential Elections*, Itasca: Peacock Publishers, Inc., 1975.
- Hensman, C. R., *Rich Against Poor: The Reality of Aid*, New York: Penguin Books, 1975.
- Kennedy, Thomas C., *Charles A. Beard and American Foreign Policy*, Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1975.
- Sunoo, Harold Hakwon, *Japanese Militarism Past and Present*, Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1975.