

Barry Buzan. (2014). An Introduction to The English School of International Relations. Cambridge: Polity Press.

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Article Type

Book Review

Application Date

03.12.2021

Acceptance Date

14.12.2021

One of the important theorists who brought the English School discourse to the agenda is Barry Buzan. In his book “An Introduction to the English School of International Relations”, Barry Buzan gave information about the history of the English School and talked about discussions on academic and current issues. In addition, it aimed to make the English School literature more understandable.

Academically, this book has made a significant contribution to English School literature with its rich references. We can easily say that a list of references is provided to satisfy all readers who want to learn in this field. This work addresses the English School's overall position in the realm of international relations. Buzan also contributed significantly to the literature by highlighting key ideas, fundamental concepts, and defining qualities of this school.

The first part of the book explains the history of the English School. Barry Buzan analyzes this section under three headings. These are The Evolution of the English School, Key Concepts and Theories and Methodologies. The author began the book by mentioning that the English School has a name that does not overlap with the topics covered by the theory. Buzan emphasized that this theory is not reflective of British foreign policy. Buzan also mentioned non-British authors who played an important role in English School theory. For instance, Hedley Bull and Charles Manning.

He also mentioned that the English School had supporters outside of Great Britain. Buzan stated countries in Europe (Germany, Denmark, Italy, Norway, and Turkey), Canada, Australia, India, China, and South Korea. He claims that the reason for this situation is that supporters of the idea have not remained in a specific group since the 1980s. The work emphasizes how the English School evolved into its current form by giving a general meaning to international relations.

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In the second chapter, Barry Buzan draws attention to some theoretical concepts. These are first and second-order societies, solidarity and pluralism, primary and secondary institutions. This section also addresses the international system and touches on topics like the international community and the world community.

The third section of the book provided an introduction to the discipline of international relations and questioned the theory's methodology. He also mentioned the English School's efforts to secure a proper position in this discipline, which is dominated by America. The author stressed that, unlike American-style theory, it is more similar to European-style theory, which systematically explains a reality through interconnected and consistent notions. However, in this part of the book, some of his criticisms of the existence of the English School are mentioned. He also summarizes these criticisms as part of Liberalism and Constructivism, one of the theories of international relations, and also mentions that there are signs of Realism. The English School's systematic approach to the center of the state is stated as the concept of anarchy in Realism theory. Barry Buzan stated in this section that the balance of power in Realist theory emphasizes the desire of states to continue their existence. Hence, the author, notes how the British school of thought has replaced Realism's balance of power with "raison de systeme."

The development of the state system, as well as the emergence and spread of today's international society, are evaluated in outline in the fourth and fifth chapters, which are covered under the second title.

In the fourth section of the book, he discussed the relationships of states with one another and the conditions under which they became members of the system. Following that, In discussing the importance of cultural identity, the author examines the works of Martin Wight's "System of States" and Adam Watson's "The Evolution of International Society." Buzan also discussed the history of state systems and provided instances. Regarding Wight's international and states system (suzerain), he also mentioned the 'primary and secondary states system.

Buzan used a retrospective (looking back) technique to study society's expansion and transformation process in the fifth chapter. The author has classified the period of societal expansion in the international arena into three types. These are emergence, transfer, and decolonization. Furthermore, one of the important points is the author's expansion of society through his classical perspective on the English School. This work also explains how the transition to the Westphalian order was accomplished. Buzan also remarked that he approached the international community at the English School with a Eurocentric perspective There was criticism that Europe was influenced by different civilizations, particularly during the enlargement process. Furthermore, it has been stated that the



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international community's political and economic situation is meaningful. In other words, it has been mentioned that society is becoming Westernized day by day and the countries of the world, which are called third world countries, have been referred to as "Revolt against the West " on this concept.

The author mostly examined the side of the English School that is close to Realism in the sixth chapter of the book. According to the author, these situations are critical for maintaining international order, forming a vision of society, and adopting standards that will keep society together. Furthermore, Buzan concentrated on how pluralist-solidaristic debates in international relations differ for the English School. As a reason for this, he mentions that the concept of international society affects politics with the increase of some social problems.

In the seventh chapter of the book, it is stated that the history of the pluralist approach and the political foundations of Pluralism was laid in the 16th and 17th years. It also strengthens the pluralistic structure of the international community with the concept of sovereignty and the adoption of the state system that emerged with the Westphalian order is included. Furthermore, in this section, the concepts of balance of power, diplomacy, international law, and war were mentioned, and he criticized why the elements of sovereignty were not included in these concepts. Buzan, after the Westphalian order, how the international community has transitioned into a new system, and the importance of examining the primary institutions that comprise society to comprehend this system. For this reason, the author has specified eleven different institutions that are important for the English School and examines the historical development of these institutions. These eleven institutions are defined as sovereignty, diplomacy, international law, the balance of power, great powers, war, imperialism/colonialism, human inequality, dynasty, nationalism, and territorial integrity.

In the eighth chapter, he evaluates the "justice" component of the order-justice dilemma. He also made a solidaristic reference to the English School's norms. In this section, he focused on the solidarity approach and divided it into two. They are cosmopolitan and state-centered. The author's goal is to demonstrate that the solidaristic and pluralist perspectives are not mutually exclusive. In addition, the pluralist approach of Hedley Bull has been incorporated into the work with a solidaristic emphasis. Furthermore, Buzan refers to the state-centered and cosmopolitan solidarity when he talks about the English School as his idea. He asserts unequivocally that the principles of solidaristic-pluralist will make it easier to comprehend this predicament. Afterward, he included the ideas of thinkers such as Vincent, Dunne, Wheeler, Linklater, Bain, Almeida, and Hurrell, who had a solidaristic approach.

The history of solidarity and the type of development process are mentioned in the ninth chapter. The author identified the critical point as the transition of the international society in its early stages from a pluralistic approach to a solidaristic structure. Furthermore, the institutions that contribute to the formation of the international community can be improved and changed, emerge new institutions changing the structure of society. Furthermore, the pluralist approach is based on war, international law and diplomacy, power balance, and sovereignty. It provides details on how concepts such as territorial integrity and the international community have evolved since their inception. Following that, he stated that

these institutions reflect the solidarity of international society's reflections on the emergence of concepts such as human rights, democracy, environmental awareness, and development.

The author summarized the book's discussions in the tenth chapter. He also mentioned the English School's current problems, and how it has reached a critical point in terms of security. He indicated that the English School theory will be much more important in terms of security in the future. According to him, it also demonstrates how Realism, Liberalism, and Marxism in international relations theories will be compared to the English School.

In general, the book indicates that the author wants to reach three audiences with his work. The writer also instructs all researchers on how to improve their understanding of English School theory and how to do it. It also provides an opportunity for people familiar with the author's current arguments to rethink the theory. Furthermore, through the analysis of other works in this field, researchers can learn about different points of view.

As a result, in the first section of this study, the author described the significance of theory in the discipline of international relations, particularly for those who are new to the English School. Furthermore, Buzan distinguishes the history of the English School from other international relations theories in his methodology. It is in affinity with international law and sociology also emphasized that by incorporating new theories (international society, e.g.) and discussions (pluralist-solidarity) into international relations. It gained a unique place in the emerging system. Besides that Barry Buzan made significant contributions to the literature through his extensive references, analyses, and explanations.