

The review of the book *Security in Emergency Situations (Bezbednost u vanrednim situacijama)* by Dragan Mlađan

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A book, that is, a textbook having significant features of a scientific monograph entitled *Security in Emergency Situations* Dragan Mlađan was published by the University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies in Belgrade. The book contains 527 pages. In addition to the introduction section which deals with safety in emergency situations as a scientific discipline and a compulsory subject studied in the third year at this University, the book includes the following nine chapters:

1. Defining and classifying basic terms relevant to emergencies
2. Danger, vulnerability, risks and consequences of emergencies
3. Organization of a system for disaster risk reduction and emergency management
4. Reducing the likelihood of occurrence and mitigation (prevention) of the consequences of emergencies
5. Preparedness of key entities for disaster risk reduction and emergency management
6. Protecting the population in emergency situations
7. Response to emergencies
8. Recovery from the consequences of emergencies
9. International cooperation in emergencies

In his textbook of the same name published in 2014, Professor Dragan Mlađan managed, in a complete and comprehensive way, to synthesize and bring the students (and the scientific and professional communities), closer to this very broad, diverse, complex, extremely multidisciplinary field which is constantly changing in a society of risk. Almost six years have passed since the publication of this textbook, which is a short period of time in the historical sense. However, regarding disaster management, significant changes have taken place in this period, both globally and locally. A series of crises and catastrophes in the world, catastrophic floods in 2014 and 2016 in Serbia, several emergencies in local self-government units, concluding with the COVID-19 pandemic, which fundamentally shook and seriously questioned the existing theoretical paradigms, have put to the test national and supranational systems for crisis and catastrophe management, the methods and mechanisms of crisis

management, the (in)ability of crisis managers, priorities and values on which modern civilization is based have imposed, *volens - nolens*, the need for a thorough review of basic principles of crisis management. All serious states predicted the danger of a global pandemic, but none of them was ready. Politicians constantly emphasize the importance of preparations and prevention. However, guided by the principles of “new public management” which propagates to “do more with less”, they do not allocate funds in budgets for prevention and preparation. The current situation leads to much work, but few rational and applicable solutions. In this environment and circumstances, this book was published, which can be useful to both students and practitioners for preparations and emergency management.

The scope of this book is very wide and it seems that each chapter could be the subject of a separate monograph. Professor Mlađan adhered to a “medium range” regarding each topic very skillfully. He did not write scarce or short sections such as lexicon or encyclopedia entries, and neither did he discuss the problem at too great a length, which was not easy at all. Either with the topics falling within “his area of expertise”, which draw him to go into detail, or those ones less familiar to him, he seeks additional sources to update basic information, and he managed to find a measure in content and scope of the material processed. The whole material is very well systematized, the problems are presented, to the extent possible, pictorially, obviously and supported by numerous data, tables, figures, maps, graphs and statistics. In processing the literature, the author used a large number of relevant domestic and foreign sources. The absence of vanity, the sense of responsibility and creative restlessness led him to consult with colleagues and experts in certain areas, since it is impossible for an individual to know such a wide range of phenomena well. All this resulted in a very valuable manuscript which would become an indispensable literature for anyone dealing with crises, disasters, and emergencies.

Although it is, in essence, based on a previously published book and draws from it what is unquestionably still valid, it is still a new book in which the author thoroughly re-systematized the matter, harmonizing purely theoretical chapters with the latest research, the reflections and approaches of the world’s most relevant authors. The latest normative solutions (primarily the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management) and the system documents (National Disaster Risk Assessment) are also included. The text is enriched with numerous examples, images, tools and calculations, which enable students to easily comprehend information and practitioners to apply crisis management tools. The book is written in an understandable, clear language and adequate style, but not to the detriment of academic correctness, owing to which it is presented through relevant scientific and professional information which is systematized, generalized and connected into a compact whole, which provides a solid basis for future research.

The book *Security in emergency situations* by Dragan Mlađan, in addition to academic standards, meets all pedagogical standards and criteria required by a

university textbook. Additionally, the book has an indisputable practical value and will be of use to practitioners not only in the Sector for Emergency Management and the Ministry of the Interior in general and other emergency services and organizations dealing with various types of crises and disasters (Red Cross, Mountain Rescue Service, etc.). It is certain that this is a book which students will not throw away when they pass the exam, but will often consult it during their career. If they work in the area of emergency situations – they will surely keep it on their desks.

