Velibor Lalić,
Faculty of Security Studies, University of Banja Luka

Review of *Security Systems and the issue of Control* by Predrag Ćeranić

COBISS.RS-ID 139587841	UDK 351.862.4(497.6)(048.83)

The book *Security Systems and the Issue of Control* by Predrag Ćeranić represents a significant contribution to the security studies literature. Its importance primarily lies in the topic addressed by Ćeranić and the manner in which the content of the book is presented. A security system and its control is the starting point for all debates on security, be it theory or practice. Ćeranić deals with the theory of security systems, a topic that has not been substantially addressed by local scholars in recent times. The systemic approach to studying security, unfortunately, has lost its importance in a "sea" of micro-topics which are mainly related to the events that occurred and were current at a certain moment, which often have a relative and even daily political significance in terms of knowledge. Additionally, the issue of control of the security system is a key determinant regarding the direction in which societies should move on the spectrum from truly democratic to totalitarian societies, from strong to failed and collapsed states. The security system is a reflection of the entire society – political relations, ideology, economy, culture, historical heritage. As such, it represents a fruitful epistemological framework for scientific analysis. Ćeranić deals with these key questions and provides answers to them in a scientifically-based manner, which makes this book even more valuable.

The book comprises two larger parts in which Ćeranić thoroughly addresses and critically examines the key issues analyzed in separate chapters.

In the first part of the book entitled "Security and Control", Ćeranić deals with definitions of security and security systems that represent a valuable overview of basic theoretical and conceptual issues of security, comparative security systems, and their control.

The second part of the book systematically addresses the security system of Bosnia and Herzegovina in detail.

The topic of security systems has been Ćeranić's main research interest. His previously published books and academic articles made him a recognizable scholar and expert on the security system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ćeranić's

57

long practical experience in the intelligence-security sector may be implicitly noticed in the text, considering how he approaches certain topics and addresses them. The reader gains an impression that the author is an experienced analyst and an excellent connoisseur of affairs. As a practitioner, Ćeranić knows the security system of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the inside and from the outside as a theoretician and lecturer. It is particularly important to point out his decades-long experience regarding the topic of security system and the fact that he witnessed and participated in the events, social "breakdowns" and transformations of the security system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The book is written in a scientific but simple style and is understandable for readers. In the book, the reader can find relevant information that is systematized, generalized and connected into a compact whole.

The book *Security Systems and the Issue of Control* by Predrag Ćeranić is a contribution to the security studies literature. The book is intended for students attending the Faculty of Security Studies, University of Banja Luka, and a general readership.