

## RESENHA

### *Book Review*

# PODER, ESTRUCTURA Y HEGEMONÍA: PAUTAS PARA EL ESTUDIO DE LA GOBERNANZA INTERNACIONAL. VOLUMEN I: ÍNDICE DE PODER MUNDIAL<sup>1</sup>

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Power by itself is a concept hard to study. But power is even more complex to analyze within something as complex as the international system because power outcomes produce balance of power, hegemony, hegemonic cycles, authority, international governance, and so on. However, *Poder, estructura y hegemonía: pautas para el estudio de la gobernanza internacional. Volumen I: Índice de Poder Mundial* has turned to be a very useful instrument to study power dynamics in the international arena, and precisely to fill the gap in the difficulty that its study represents. Even though that the main goal of the whole work, which is divided in three volumes, is to understand the transformations that are happening in international governance, the first step that Morales Ruvalcaba has taken is to understand how power behaves among States and international politics.

One of the contributions in this book is the exhaustive and critical review of academic works that aim to study power in international relations, both classic and more recent works. This means that the focus of the book starts with much updated ideas of the debate about international power. In the words of the author, his work designs an analysis technique that comprehends national power as a socio-historical phenomenon; that considers the internal capacities of States; which is relative to all State actors and shows the level of their

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<sup>1</sup> Poder, estructura y hegemonía: pautas para el estudio de la gobernanza internacional. Volumen I: Índice de Poder Mundial, de Daniel Efrén Morales Ruvalcaba. Guadalajara, Ediciones GIPM. 2015

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dominance in international politics; that takes into account the variety of national capacities; and that possess the capacity of organize and differentiate the different dimensions of national power (p. 113).

Perhaps one could asseverate that one of the book limitations is its Statocentric approach, which is seen in the fact that the “World Power Index” (*Índice de Poder Mundial* or IPM) is divided into States. Although this does not mean that the study is oriented to Realism, it does not take into account another important non-State actors, like multinationals firms, the Islamic State, or international organizations. Nevertheless, as the author affirms, the objective of this first work is to present a statistical device to measure power that helps to weigh national capacities of a State, and which allows a clear comprehension of a State’s position into the international structure (p. 162). In other words, the purpose of this work is to measure precisely power among States. Maybe the methodology in this work could help future researches about non-State actor’s power, but this is not the case.

The book is divided in three chapters plus a presentation of the whole work, a preface and a conclusion. In fact, this first volume is an introduction for the rest of the work of Morales Ruvalcaba, whose Volume II is now available. The readers could see that this work is also the most mature form of Morales Ruvalcaba own work. The author has been studying State power and international governance since his M.A. dissertation, and *Volumen I: Índice de Poder Mundial* is a culmination of his scholar and researcher experience. In this sense, one can see the evolution of his work in the third chapter, which is also the node chapter of the book due to the fact that the author publishes, for the first time, the data that comprehends the World Power Index.

I would like to finish this book review by writing some words about the World Power Index. Any index by itself is not very useful because exists in the field of abstraction. But a very good index is a useful tool to analyze reality. As an international relations scholar, I have not had found an index to measure power as complete as the World Power Index. I leaned on Morales Ruvalcaba’s World Power Index to analyze China’s institutional international power in my M.A. thesis with, I think, very good results. I invite all international relations scholars that focus on study international power to review, to criticize and to contribute to the World Power Index in order to better understand global power dynamics. Morales Ruvalcaba has taken a very huge step in this direction.

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