

**LAUDATIO**

to

award the honorary title

**DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA**

OF

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ORADEA**

to

**EMERITUS PROFESSOR**

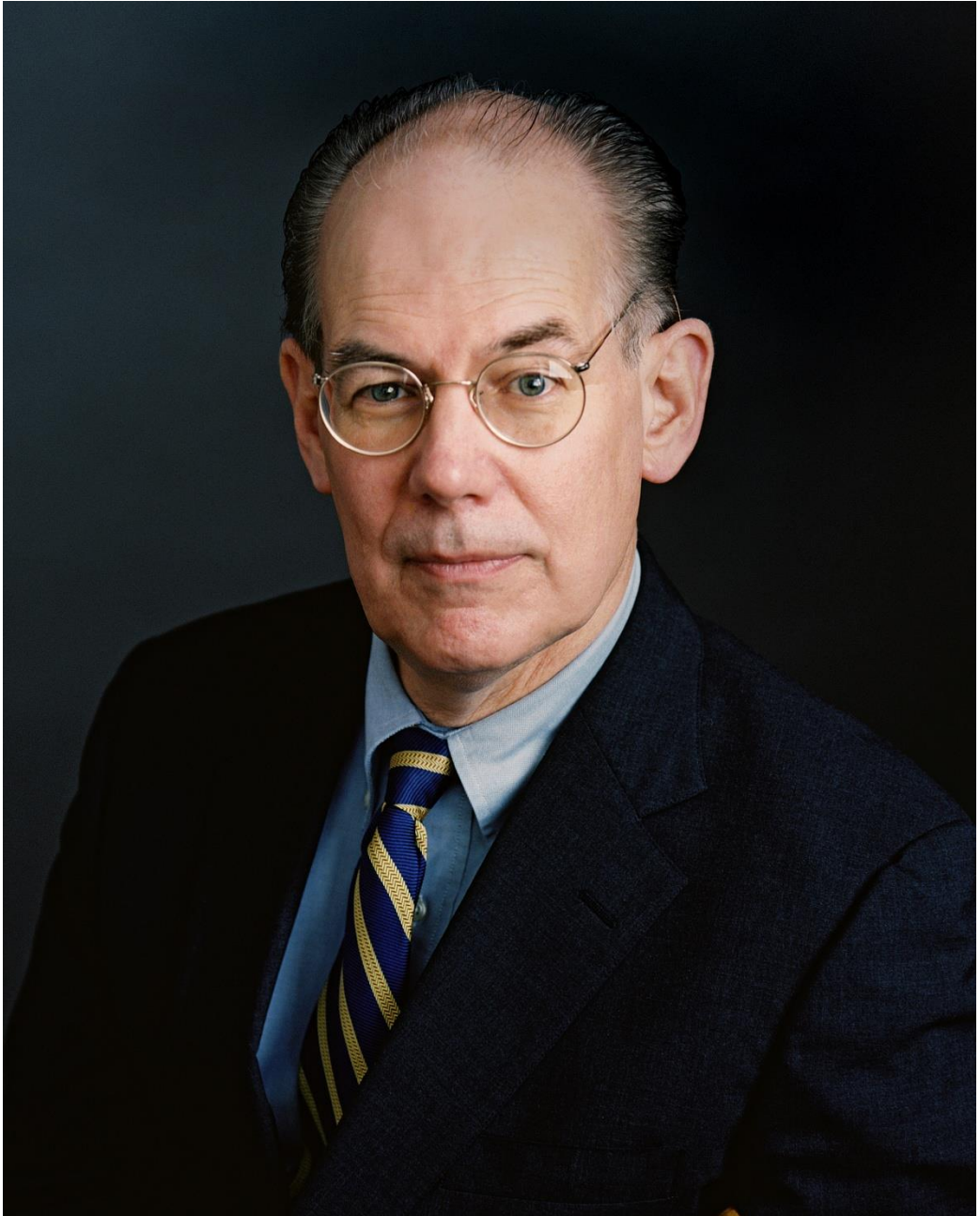
*John J. Mearsheimer*

of the

**University of Chicago**









"Concordia res crescunt"



ROMÂNIA  
UNIVERSITATEA DIN ORADEA



*In nomine  
Senatus Universitatis Varadiensis,  
Praesidens Senatus Sorin Curilă,  
Professor Publicus Ordinarius,  
summo omnium plausu decrevit ut  
excellentissimus atque illustrissimus vir,  
Professor Publicus Ordinarius*

**MEARSHEIMER J. JOHN**

*Honoris Causa in Corpus Doctorum  
huius Universitatis reciperetur.*

*In cuius rei fidem hoc Diploma ad omnium  
quibus expedit notitiam conscribendum iussit.*

*Datum* **25.10.2018**

*Urbs Varadinum*

*Praesidens Senatus  
Sorin Curilă*

*Rector Magnificus  
Constantin Bungău*



Seria 485

"Concordia res crescunt"





ROMÂNIA  
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University of Oradea  
Oradea, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Prof. PhD. Sorin CURILĂ

President of the Senate of the University of Oradea,

To Prof. PhD. John J. MEARSHEIMER, University of Chicago,

Dear Mr. Professor John J. MEARSHEIMER,

It is my pleasure to announce you that on the basis of the proposal of the Council of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Sciences and Communication Sciences, the Senate of the University of Oradea, has decided to award you the title of DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA, as a sign of appreciation for your scientific and didactical activities and for the contribution that your research has brought to the enrichment of the field of International Relations.

Dear Mr. Professor John J. MEARSHEIMER, we inform you that the Senate of the University of Oradea, along with the team of the Department of International Relations and European Studies invite you to attend the official ceremony to present you with this award, on **Thursday, October the 25<sup>th</sup> 2018, at 10:00, in the Aula Magna of the University of Oradea.**

Please accept my most respectful regards,

Sincerely,

President of the Senate of the University of Oradea,  
Prof. univ. dr. Sorin Curilă









ROMÂNIA  
MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI NAȚIONALE  
UNIVERSITATEA DIN ORADEA  
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## LAUDATIO

**To Professor John J. Mearsheimer**

**on the occasion of awarding the title of Doctor Honoris**

**Causa of the University of Oradea**

The Council of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and Communication Sciences has had the pleasure of proposing the honouring of Professor John J. Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago with the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the University of Oradea to the administrative bodies of the university. The initiative of the Department of International Relations and European Studies has been for his extraordinary intellectual biography, conducted in an exemplary manner in three areas: research, education, and public life.

Following this step, the University of Oradea has invited Professor John J. Mearsheimer to Oradea to be awarded with the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa*, today on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. Certainly, the administration of the Department of International Relations and European Studies has had both subjective, symbolic arguments and objective arguments

On the one hand, speaking from the subjective perspective, by honouring Professor John J. Mearsheimer with this title, we are trying to pay tribute to US diplomacy and foreign policy, which through the Proclamation of 14 Points written by President Woodrow Wilson, opened the way for powerful mutations,

namely the self-determination of peoples, in Central and Eastern Europe in January 1918. Among these, we also find the Romanian population of Transylvania, Banat, Crişana and Maramureş. Thus, the event today also has gained a symbolic dimension, because it is taking place during the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence of Transylvania, Banat, Crişana and Maramureş from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was signed in Oradea on October 12th 1918.

We also pay homage to the American School of International Relations through Professor John J. Mearsheimer, because it inspired the person who was highly appreciated and loved in the interwar collective memory in Romania, especially in Transylvania, since people greeted him *Long live Badea Wilson*.

On the other hand, through its proposal, the team of the Department of International Relations and European Studies of the University of Oradea has expressed an objective agreement that Professor John J. Mearsheimer should be honoured. Specifically, many generations of students in the field of international relations and European studies and in political sciences in Romania got acquainted with the work of Professor John J. Mearsheimer, when they studied International Relations Theory and especially when they analyzed the Realist paradigm.

After students plunging into the *classical realism* of Hans J. Morgenthau and Henry Kissinger and in the *neorealist paradigm*, founded by Kenneth Waltz, the figure of a realist author appeared on the horizon. On the one hand, he is strongly attached to neorealism, but, on the other hand, brings options from the area of classical realism back into discussion, by developing an original structural theory, that of *offensive realism*. The students from Oradea are also included among these young minds eager to know the most important paradigms of international relations. They have had the Romanian translated books of Professor John J. Mearsheimer in their bibliographic list since their first year of studies, especially *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* or *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth About Lying in International Politics*.

For them it is a great honour to welcome in their circle, even if for only a few hours, an author who is not only familiar to them from the handlist, but especially from the online space that is so rich in information on Professor John J. Mearsheimer. If until now the reading materials and the online space have been the only keys of access to John Mearsheimer's thought, from today, we believe that they will take pride in having an author proposed in their bibliographic list, or about whom they have learnt in the online space, addressing them directly from the chair. It will be an unforgettable day both for them, and also for us, teachers/professors.

Based on the fact that, John J. Mearsheimer has become more appealing for those present here in this room, ever since it was known that his Excellency will come to ORADEA, I will just summarize a few aspects of his work.

Before presenting some details about the great personality honoured today, I would like to thank to my colleagues Florin Păsătoiu from Craiova and Cristian Nițoiu from London for giving us the opportunity to have Professor John J. Mearsheimer in Oradea.

John J. Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and Co-director of the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1982. After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force from 1970-1975, he received an M.A. in international relations from the University of Southern California in 1974 and completed an M.A. and PhD in government at Cornell University from 1978-1980. As a major proponent of the realist school of international relations theory, he is arguably one of the most influential, widely cited and controversial scholars in the field, frequently challenging accepted conventions about U.S. foreign and national security policy and the use of force in international politics.

Professor John J. Mearsheimer, through his personality, is not only much sought after by many editors around the world, but also shows great generosity, supporting quality publications around the world through his written articles. We

mention only a few publications where he writes regularly: *Security Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Stosunki Miedzynarodowe*, *International History Review*, *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, *Asian Security*, etc.

We underline, that despite the fact that he is a highly engaged scholar caught in between different activities, his Excellency has come to Oradea not only to be honoured with the title of *Doctor Honors Causa*, but he has also accepted to answer some questions within the Workshop entitled *The Future of the World Order: Stability or Disorder?*, together with colleagues from the UK, Russia, Hungary and Romania (Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iasi and obviously Oradea), in front of the local audience in the afternoon of October 25, 2018.

He has published extensively in both academic periodicals, such as *International Security*, and policy commentary in *Foreign Affairs* and *The National Interest*, as well as chapters in various edited volumes. Among these are some of the most often read and hotly debated articles in the discipline, including "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War," *International Security*, Vol. 15, No. 4 (Summer 1990), "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Winter 1994/1995), and "The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy," (with Stephen M. Walt), *Middle East Policy*, Vol. 13, No. 3 (Fall 2006).

He is also the author of six books, the most prominent of which include *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001, 2014), which introduced the concept of *offensive realism* and won the Joseph Lepgold Book Prize in 2002 and has been translated into eight different languages; *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (with Stephen M. Walt, 2007), which examines the role of domestic interest groups in dominating the U.S. policy-making process towards the Middle East, was ranked number one on the New York Times bestseller list, and has been translated into twenty-two different languages; and *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics* (2011), which considers the strategic use of false information by decision-makers in world politics, and has been translated

into ten different languages. His most recent publication, *The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities* (2018) examines the manner in which the emphasis on promoting democracy and liberal values in U.S. foreign policy since the 1990s has failed to address Russian perceptions regarding its position and national interests in the post-Cold War world order, thus leading to events, such as the 2014 Ukraine crisis.

Finally, Professor Mearsheimer has received numerous awards and honours for his contributions to the field, including the Clark Award for Distinguished Teaching while still a graduate student at Cornell University in 1977, and the Quantrell Award for Distinguished Teaching as an associate professor at the University of Chicago in 1985. In addition, he was selected as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar for 1993-1994, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003 and was the 2004 recipient of the International Studies Association (ISA) Distinguished Scholar Award.

He has been honoured with distinctions by universities from Australia, Canada, China, Greece, Ireland, Israel, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and the United States.

Of course, by accepting the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa*, for the University of Oradea, it is a great honour to have Professor John J. Mearsheimer, starting from today October 25, 2018, within its academic body.

**Our sincere congratulations to you Professor John J. Mearsheimer!**

**The Senate of the University of Oradea**



## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **JOHN J. MEARSHEIMER**

Before becoming a prominent scholar in the field of international relations and political science, John J. Mearsheimer embraced a military career, graduating from the United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1970, after which he served as an officer for five years in the U.S. Air Force. While still an officer in the Air Force, Mr. Mearsheimer earned a Masters Degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California, in 1975 starting graduate school in political Science at Cornell University, New York.

In 1981, he successfully defended his PhD. Dissertation in Government Studies, receiving an honorable mention for APSA's 1980-81 Helen Dwight Reid Award. In the period 1979-1980 he won a research fellowship at the Brookings Institution and from 1980-1982 he was a research associate (post-doctoral fellow) at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs. During the 1992-1993 academic year Mr. Mearsheimer was a visiting scholar at the Olin Institute for Strategic Studies at Harvard University. For one year (1998-1999), the distinguished scholar was awarded with the Whitney H. Shepardson Fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Since 1982, Professor Mearsheimer is a member of the Political Science Department of the University of Chicago, where he is also the co-director of the Program on International Security Policy. Currently, Mr. Mearsheimer is a R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. In 2003, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

For his invaluable work and added value to the existent IR scholarship, Professor Mearsheimer has received many honors and awards, among which we mention for example: the Clark Award for Distinguished Teaching, Cornell University, 1977; the Quantrell Award for Distinguished Teaching, University of Chicago, 1985; *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, recipient of Joseph Leggold

Book Prize, 2002; Distinguished Scholar Award, International Studies Association (ISA), March 18, 2004; Honorary Doctorate, Panteion University, Athens, Greece, June 27, 2012; Honorary Professorship, Beijing Foreign Studies University, May 24, 2012; Hall of Distinguished Graduates, Croton-Harmon High School, November 19, 2012; Honorary Patronage of the Philosophical Society, Trinity College, Dublin, December 12, 2012; Annual Orator of the Philomathean Society, The University of Pennsylvania, March 31, 2016, etc.

Within academic circles, Mr. Mearsheimer is considered as the founding father of the *offensive realist* paradigm, with which he has managed to bring back the realist school into the attention of the public.

Professor Mearsheimer has numerous published papers addressing security issues and international politics in general and he also frequently participates in public debates by contributing op-ed articles to the *The New York Times* and other national newspapers.



## **All Publications**

### **John J. Mearsheimer**

#### **Books:**

- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities*, Yale University Press, 2018
- John J. Mearsheimer, *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). Translated into Albanian, Chinese (both simplified and complex characters), German, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Turkish.
- John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007). Translated into Arabic, Catalan, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.
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## **Recommendation**

**To award the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the University of  
Oradea**

**To Professor John J. Mearsheimer  
University of Chicago**

Oradea and the local academic community in its entirety have the opportunity to award one of the most prominent exponents of the American School of International Relations, Professor John J. Mearsheimer, with the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Oradea in the month in which we celebrate 100 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence of Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș from the Austro-Hungarian Empire signed in Oradea. This declaration would lay the basis for the Union of these territories with Romania (on December 1, 1918) and it is a document based on the principle of self-determination of peoples, stated in President Woodrow Wilson's Proclamation of 14 Points in January 1918.

Numerous generations of students in the field of international relations and European studies and political sciences from Romania got acquainted with the work of Professor John J. Mearsheimer, when they studied International Relations Theory and especially when they analyzed the Realist paradigm.

After plunging into the *classical realism* of Hans J. Morgenthau and Henry Kissinger and in the *neorealist paradigm*, founded by Kenneth Waltz, the figure of a realist author appeared on the horizon. On the one hand, he is strongly attached to neorealism, but, on the other hand, he brings options from the area of classical realism back into discussion, by developing an original structural theory, that of *offensive realism*. The students from Oradea are also included among these

young minds eager to know the most important paradigms of international relations. They have had the Romanian translated books of Professor John J. Mearsheimer in their bibliographic list since their first year of studies, especially *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* or *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth About Lying in International Politics*.

Beyond these considerations with subjective connotations stemming from teaching practice at the *Theory of International Relations* course, we are honoured to detail the concept of *offensive realism*. According to Professor John J. Mearsheimer, the ultimate goal of every great power is to maximize its power in the world system and, if it is possible, to dominate it. Obviously, in such logic, the international system is dominated by only one category of actors – *states* and especially those with structural power, which are capable of shaping the international agenda. By logical deduction, in such an international system, order is ensured by these actors and not by a possible superior entity.

Going forward in the synthesis of Professor John J. Mearsheimer's conception, we also have to discuss the themes of capabilities and intentions, which occupy an important place in supporting the analysis that states are rational actors that know their geopolitical space in which they act and in which they want the recognition of their capabilities and aspirations.

Professor Mearsheimer's conception of the logic of the current international system is found in all his works, *Conventional Deterrence* (1983); *Liddell Hart and the Weight of History* (1988); *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001, 2014), which has been translated into eight different languages (including Romanian); *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (with Stephen M. Walt, 2007), which has been translated into twenty-two different languages (including Romanian); *Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics* (2011), which has been translated into ten different languages (including Romanian); *The Great Delusion: Liberal Dreams and International Realities* (2018).

John J. Mearsheimer has also published many articles that have appeared in prestigious academic journals, such as *International Security*, and periodicals,

such as *Foreign Affairs* and *London Review of Books*. Among the themes addressed by Professor Mearsheimer, we find topics of great international importance and resonance, such as the Bosnian question, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the American foreign policy towards India, the failure of the Arab-Israeli peace efforts, the intervention in Iraq and the causes of the Ukrainian crisis.

Professor John J. Mearsheimer is not only much sought after by many editors around the world, but also shows great generosity, supporting quality publications around the world with the written articles. We mention only a few publications where he writes regularly: *Security Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Stosunki Miedzynarodowe*, *International History Review*, *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, *Asian Security*, etc.

Finally, Professor John J. Mearsheimer holds a number of academic awards. He was honoured with the Quantrell Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Chicago in 1985. Since 2003, he has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been awarded with distinctions by universities from Canada, China, Greece, Ireland, Great Britain, Australia, Israel, Singapore and the USA.

Of course, with his acceptance of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa for the University of Oradea, it is a great honour to have Professor John J. Mearsheimer in its academic body.

Oradea, on October 16, 2018

Prof. Univ. Dr. Ioan Horga

Dean of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and  
Communication Sciences





## **Recommendation**

### **Professor John J. Mearsheimer - a key authority in the field of International Relations**

Professor John Joseph Mearsheimer is one of the most distinguished academics of International Relations. His work is cited and praised around the globe and has had important influence and impact on policymaking. He currently is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago. Moreover, his career has been centered primarily around his activity at the University of Chicago where he started working in 1982, gradually advancing to the highest academic ranks.

Professor Mearsheimer has won numerous awards, both for his work as well as for his teaching and broader contribution to the study of International Relations. Most notably his book, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001, 2014) won the Joseph Lepgold Book Prize and has been translated into eight different languages. He is frequently invited to give lectures and talks around the world, as well as providing policy advice to various governments and public institutions.

It is rather safe to assume that Prof. John Mearsheimer is the most important current representative of the realist school of International Relations. He has continued the tradition of other scholars like E.H. Carr, Hans Morgenthau, or Kenneth Waltz. Even though his work draws on the research of his predecessors and peers he has distinguished himself by presenting a series of novel and sophisticated ideas regarding the nature of the structure of international relations. As the main proponent of the offensive neorealism school he argues that

the system of world politics provides incentives for great powers to increase their power and seek hegemony at the expense of other states.

He has also written extensively on the role of United States in the world order, as well the way in which America should behave in international relations. For example, his book written with Stephen M. Walt, *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* made the New York Times best seller list and has been translated into twenty-two different languages. During the Iraq war, Prof. Mearsheimer was a vocal critic of the US intervention claiming that America should not get bogged down in remote countries that only marginally affect US interests. He also had a similar view regarding the West's action during the recent Ukraine crisis.

Professor Mearsheimer is indeed a key authority when it comes to the study of International Relations. His name and work proudly appears in most textbooks, reading lists, and classrooms. There is no doubt that that his ideas have had deep impact on the way International Relations have been researched in the last 30 years.

To that end it is an honor to recommend Professor John Joseph Mearsheimer for the Honorary Doctorate, whose worked has left a deep impact on both eh academic and policy world.

Lect.univ.dr. Florin Pasatoiu  
Universitatea din Craiova

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