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**Review report on Habilitation thesis (Book, Monograph) of Dr. Andrew Ryder, PhD. called: *Britain and Europe at a Crossroads* ( The Politics of Anxiety and Transformation)**

Day-to-day reality encourages us to think about the processes taking place in society, especially to evaluate the past, analyse the present, and to some extent also predict the future developments. This is even more important if the given processes take place in a public space of power. Therefore, great responsibility remains, among other things, on the shoulders of the representatives of political science. The habilitation thesis in the form of a scientific monograph of Dr. Andrew Ryder, PhD. entitled *Britain and Europe at a Crossroads* is an obvious example of this and the raised issue is also extremely topical.

Political events going on around the world in the twentieth century brought an unbelievable number of problems that society at the time was confronted with. In particular, the circumstances after the end of the Second World War in Europe opened up and raised a number of questions related to the existence of European states in the future. Historically, the process of today's form of the European integration began to take shape immediately after the Second World War. Uncertainty, scepticism, the ruined economies of states had gradually encouraged their leaders to consider a new and meaningful form of integration, in order to offer the people a certain perspective of future existence. This became the project of the United Europe, as an exceptional economic and political space that could guarantee peace and future economic prosperity.

However, the truth remains that not all European countries, also on the basis of specific geopolitical spheres of influence, could be immediate participants in democratic integration processes, because they were hostages to their totalitarian regimes. In almost 70 years (1951-2021) of existence, a number of positive moments took place, which have immediately led to a better standard of living and a sense of security for the citizens of the Member States. At present, however, we are witnessing various contradictory events. One of them is Great Britain leaving the European Union with effect from 1<sup>st</sup>. of January 2021 – the process called Brexit.

The reviewed monograph, which is the subject of the habilitation procedure at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences of Comenius University in Bratislava, deals in detail with the position of Britain in the European area, but also with all difficulties related to its withdrawal, from the moment of the implementation of the referendum in 2016 to the

