The actuality and relevance of this book caused by the significant role of Germany in European Politics and International Relations in Post-Soviet Area in the 1990s and at the beginning of XXI century. German goals and interests in this region were researched only in their common context and in the frameworks of the EU policy towards the Post-Soviet Area. Therefore it is necessary to emphasize an importance of the research realized by the author of this book to fill a gap of publications devoted to an entire complex of the German political, economic and other interests in the Post-Soviet Region, main goals and concrete tasks concerning all former Soviet Republics as well as the most effective ways and tools to fulfill them within formal and informal interaction with new political elites.

The period 1991–2005 which was chosen by Dr. Vladislav Froltsov is of particular interest regarding the fact that both ruling coalitions: center-right with Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the head in 1991–1998 and center-left with Gerhard Schroeder in 1998–2005 could formulate and develop a consistent and flexible policy towards the Post-Soviet Area based on very effective situational approach. It allowed considering and taking into account different interests of new national states and their political elites. Some of them like three Baltic States were striving for rapid integration into the European Community and membership in the NATO. Another part with Russia on the head was going to secure close Soviet ties between former republics and considering the Western drift of their neighbors as a serious threat. In these conditions the situational approach helped both Helmut Kohl’s and Gerhard Schroeder’s governments to find a sustainable balance between interests of Russia as a strategic partner for Germany in spheres of security and economy, and efficient policies of other former Soviet republics.

It’s necessary to emphasize a solid number of various sources including legal acts, governmental and diplomatic documents, media materials etc. as well as research papers of authors from different Post-Soviet and European countries, and the US which were used for preparing of this book. Despite of many approaches to analyze the bilateral relations between Germany and Russia, Ukraine, Belarus etc Dr. Vladislav Froltsov declares on obvious lack of full and complete presentations of the German foreign policy strategy towards the Post-Soviet Area in the nineties and in the beginning of XXI century. This circumstance defines a necessity to fill this gap in the modern historiography. And this goal was successfully realized in the reviewing book which materials and positions could be used for further detailed study of various aspects of German foreign policy as well as policies of the Post-Soviet countries on the eve of XX–XXI centuries. Some results would be also useful for advanced study of policy making process in federal government as well as methods, instruments and forms of German diplomacy on bilateral and multilateral levels under various circumstances of rapidly changing geopolitical situation on the territory of the territory of the former USSR.

One of the most interesting aspects of research is a substantial analysis of a German approach for soft power using in the Post-Soviet Area to shape and enhance a positive image of Germany in this region what could assist in securing of political and economic interests by engaging of elite groups, national business and national mass-media, and public opinion on the whole. A detailed analysis of German experience in soft power using could be very interesting for searching of the most effective methods and tools of such policy for other countries which are going to expand their presence in the global information space.

At the same time it’s necessary to note that author of book was too optimistic about perspectives of the German – Russian strategic partnership after changing of ruling coalition in Berlin in November 2005. The new German government with Chancellor Angela Merkel on the head preferred to review a consistent and flexible political strategy of Helmut Kohl’s and Gerhard Schroeder’s governments towards Russia and their Post-Soviet neighbors, and namely Ukraine. In comparison with positions of previous German governments Angela Merkel’s coalition decided to back the Pro-European forces in Ukraine ignoring the Russian geopolitical interests in the region and criticizing strongly a political situation in Russia after 2012. Another point of discussion is a necessity to consider in detail very formal political relations between Germany and some countries of Transcaucasia and Central Asia which are not in the list of foreign policy priorities for Berlin.

All these debatable remarks could be evaluated as an additional argument for actuality and academic significance of the book of Dr. Vladislav Froltsov which would be especially useful for further research of modern trends in European and Eurasian Politics as well as tendencies and controversies of the International Relations in the Post-Soviet Area.