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## THE IMPACT OF DISINFORMATION ON SECURITY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF CĂTĂLIN PEPTAN AND FLAVIUS CRISTIAN MĂRCĂU

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Our review will explore in detail the contributions of the work "*The Impact of Fake News on Security Issues*" written by Cătălin Peptan and Flavius Cristian Mărcău, analyzing its approaches, methodology, conclusions, and its academic and practical value. Additionally, the authors stand out for their remarkable academic activity, with significant contributions in fields such as democratization and social processes (Mărcău, 2011, 2014, 2019), the impact of fake news on security and quality of life (Mărcău et al., 2023a, 2023b), the relationship between knowledge and security (Peptan, 2020), and the analysis of the delayed integration of Romania into the Schengen Area (Peptan et al., 2024a).

Moreover, they have addressed current topics such as monkeypox vaccination (Peptan et al., 2022), parental hesitation about child vaccination (Mărcău et al., 2022), self-medication in the pharmaceutical context (Gheorman et al., 2024), and the effects of recent crises on citizen rights (Peptan et al., 2023a, 2023b).

Their contributions also include interdisciplinary studies on ecumenism and communism (Mărcău & Morariu, 2023), as well as public health and national security (Peptan et al., 2023c). These works reflect a complex and integrative vision of relevant contemporary societal themes, fostering dialogue among various academic fields.

The book under our review focuses on an overwhelmingly timely theme, the phenomenon of fake news, examining how it influences security at individual, collective, and national levels. This subject is treated with remarkable methodological rigor, through an analysis that combines theoretical and practical research. The work is supported by a clear conceptual framework, based on specialized literature and rigorous methodology, highlighting the impact of disinformation in contexts such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the military crisis in Ukraine, or the European economic contraction.

The book is divided into two major sections, each with four chapters. The first part explores the foundations of the concept of security, defining the theoretical framework and contextualizing the concept in relation to fake news issues. The second part analyzes the concrete impact of disinformation in various recent crises, offering an applied perspective based on empirical data.

The authors methodologically clarify the study's structure, describing its hypotheses and objectives, sample selection, and data processing. The use of an online questionnaire completed by a

large number of respondents adds a rigorous empirical dimension, supported by statistical analyses conducted with IBM SPSS Statistics.

The research distinguishes itself through the application of a well-documented and clear methodology, focusing on multiple linear regression to identify significant factors influencing the population's perception of security and fake news. The hypotheses are well-grounded, and the study's objectives are clearly formulated, covering both theoretical and practical dimensions.

One of the main contributions of the work is the identification of correlations between socio-demographic variables and respondents' ability to recognize and manage fake news. Additionally, the authors emphasize the need for media education as an essential tool for mitigating the negative impact of disinformation.

The findings are valuable both for the academic field and for practitioners in the security domain. The study reveals that the fake news phenomenon affects not only individual perceptions and behaviors but also social cohesion and institutional stability. The conclusions underline the importance of an integrated approach that includes public education, effective regulations, and international collaboration.

This book represents an important contribution to the specialized literature in Romania, being one of the few comprehensive studies addressing the impact of fake news in a national security context. The analysis offers both a deep understanding of the phenomenon and practical solutions for combating it, directly addressing the needs of policymakers and institutions with responsibilities in the field.

"*The Impact of Fake News on Security Issues*" is an essential work for anyone interested in the intersection of disinformation, security, and society. Through its combination of theoretical, empirical, and practical analysis, the book provides a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers, representing a significant milestone in the study of the fake news phenomenon.

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