

Book review

**ADVANCED ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND EUROPEAN STUDIES**

By Kalina Bratanova

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The textbook “Advanced English for International Relations and European Studies” by Kalina Bratanova was published in March 2021 by the University Publishing Complex of the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) in Sofia, Bulgaria. The only textbooks written by authors from the university faculty until then were written in 1980 and 1987. They were aimed at students of previous generations and in line with state and university requirements based on a curriculum and syllabi that were changed with regard to Bulgaria’s accession to the European Union. The present textbook achieves a synergistic effect by meeting the requirements of the new academic programmes and fulfilling the needs of the new generations of learners – the Millennials and Generation Z who grow up with modern information and communication technology and hence learn and communicate in a way that is radically different compared to previous generations.

The *Introduction* provides a detailed description of the tasks included in the textbook as well as guidelines to its effective use.

The textbook is aimed for advanced learners (level C1 of CEFR) and includes eight units focused on topics central to the education of the students of International Relations and European Studies: English as the language of global communication, the Cold War, the United Nations, NATO, the European Union. Each unit comprises three sections. Section A, *Introducing terminology*, is focused on specialised vocabulary, collocations and phraseology, and is based on speaking and reading comprehension tasks. Section B, *In the headlines*, aims to familiarise students with the media jargon of the unit topic. The tasks in Sections A and B include matching, gap filling, cloze tests and multiple-choice exercises. Section C, *Exam practice*, prepares students for the format and tasks of their final exams at UNWE and introduces them to specialized writing, for instance essay writing, summarizing or trend describing. Furthermore, it facilitates the improvement of student linguistic, sociolinguistic and social competences. Sections B and C offer listening comprehension tasks involving gap-filling, replacing synonyms and preparing short summaries on questions. Each unit ends with the *Mapping countries* rubric, which provides cultural knowledge and expands students’ knowledge on cultural diversity and develops their skills for intercultural communication. The rubric uses the interactive online platform *Otellus.com* and thus gives students the opportunity to learn their way – by interaction, multimedia and exploration.

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It also helps them realize the relevancy of the course content and increase their motivation and engagement for learning.

At the end of the textbook, there is a detailed key to all tasks and the audio scripts of the recordings from Sections B and C. All texts are authentic, and reveal the characteristic features of the political and diplomatic discourse. The variety of exercises contributes to the balanced honing all components of student functional communicative competence. In addition, the textbook can be used by students or advanced learners who would like to consolidate their knowledge and skills and prepare for the internationally acknowledged CAE and IELTS exams.