Si vis pacem, para bellum ad recognitionem. Struggles for Peaceful Recognition among States

Abstract: The paper tries to highlight the potential merits of the application of so called ‘politics of recognition’ to the context of international relations. Besides having to do with political sphere, this hypothesis concerns the theory of international relations. In the first part, the article introduces and explains the category of ‘epochal events’ in order to describe the global challenges which Statehoods have to face in the ‘postnational constellation’. In a second step, the paper summarizes the main theories of international relations which have differently conceived the causes and remedies to wars. In the last part, the article will show analogies and differences between these traditional approaches and the theory of recognition applied to international relations, as recently recommended by Axel Honneth.

Keywords: Recognition, International relations, Axel Honneth, Critical theory.