

EDITORIAL

This issue of the CEU Political Science Journal aims to approach, from different perspectives, relevant topics of discussion for the Central and Eastern European landscape following the fall of Communism and the transitions to capitalism and stable democracy. Thus, the authors present in this issue use a variety of theoretical frameworks, from different fields of Political Science, in order to explain the shaping of identities, the relations between minorities and majorities in post-Communist states, as well as the developments at the level of the entire region and the interactions between the democratization process taking place in post-Communist states and the desire of the West to stabilize a region which has been devastated by violent conflicts throughout history.

Stefano Braghiroli explores the democratization process in the interwar period in three Central-Eastern European states – Poland, Lithuania and Czechoslovakia – using Rokkan's explicative factors: economy, culture, territory, and politics. While the conclusions of the article are valid for the period under scrutiny, they prove useful in understanding the democratization process in the post-communist Europe, following the breakdown of the authoritarian regimes almost 20 years ago. The author identifies specific structural elements of the political and social systems in these states, which explain, or at least

contribute, to the success or failure of democratic institutions.

Dylan Kissane analyzes the realist predictions made by John Mearsheimer, concerning the four possible scenarios of development in European political and security landscape after the end of the Cold War. The article identifies the reason why Mearsheimer's predictions have proven to be wrong, but moves forward to explain also the developments that actually took place following the end of Communism.

Dijana Gacesa's article approaches a compelling issue in the Eastern European social and political landscape – the role of the church in shaping identities. The particular case approached in the article is the Serbian Orthodox Church and the way it constructed the image of the "others", as a mean to construct and maintain its identity, while facing the challenges posed by modernity and the expansion of Western values.

Also debating the issue of identity, Monica Andriescu analyzes the discourse concerning the minorities in Romania after the fall of Communism, in order to explain the legal developments regarding education and linguistic rights. Also, the author examines the willingness of both minority and majority representatives to achieve compromise on the issue of minority rights. While focusing on the behavior of internal actors, the article also places the discussion in the context

of international regulations that have constantly shaped their actions.

Costica Dumbrava debates the citizenship policies in a large sample consisting of sixteen post-communist European states and dismisses the theoretical conclusions existing so far in the literature, which claim that the policies are “illiberal” and nationalistic. The article shows that citizenship policies are rarely coherent. Post-communist states remain divided between the desire to prove themselves as pro-European and liberal and the necessity to preserve the identity of the titular nation.

Notes for Contributors

The formal article requirements remain the same and can be found at our web address – [www.ceu.hu/polscijournal]. Articles must consist of 4,000-6,000

words, while any appendixes should not be longer than 5 pages. These requirements apply also to the submissions qualifying as “work in progress,” while the book reviews should not be longer than 1,200 words. Exceptions from these rules might be allowed, but a good justification should be addressed to the members of the Editorial Board, who will consider it only if the reviewers believe that going over the word limit is needed with respect to the content of the article. An additional requirement, which should be met by all submissions, is that any article, work in progress or book review submitted to us for publication should not be under review at other publications or should not have been already accepted for publication elsewhere.

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