

## REVIEW OF REVIEWS

### STUDIA POLITICA. ROMANIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW, NO. 1, 2014

The first issue from 2014 of the journal entitled *Studia Politica. Romanian Political Science Review*, published by the Faculty of Political Science, Bucharest University, is opening the series of articles with the study entitled “A Critical Assessment of the Concept of Europeanization in the Light of the State of the Union” signed by Ramona Coman and Amandine Crespy. The authors argue that, although there were realized important empirical research on the concept of “Europeanization” of the states under the impact of the integration in the EU, its relevance as a specific concept is limited to a couple of aspects. The first, referring to the conceptual debates from the literature of specialty, leading to the conclusion that, the “Europeanization” describes a general phenomenon of transformation and modernization (un *explanandum* rather than *explanans*). The second envisions the methodological aspects that have determined many intellectuals to overestimate the impact of the integration of the states in the EU. In conclusion, the authors leave opened the path for the critical observations concerning the democratization of Central and Eastern Europe, the crisis of debts of the Southern European states, the European macroeconomic policies (pp. 27-28).

“Does Education Make Voters More Leftist or More Rightist? A West vs. East Cross-Regional Analysis” interrogation to which try to answer Florin N. Fesnic and Oana I. Armeanu in their study. Although education is one of the most important determinants of the political preferences and of the voting behaviour, the direction of this impact is not universal. In a post-communist country as Romania, education is negatively correlated with the support for “leftist” policies. As in a democratic country post-industrial, as France, the development of education is translated into a more ample support for a moderate left (for example, a post-materialist, socialist ecologist left). The authors explain this difference as the conjugated result of several recent historical experiences and of the current level of economic and social development of the two European countries (pp. 34-35).

Within the same line registers the study entitled “Unicameralism vs. Bicameralism Revised. The Case of Romania,” signed by Ionut Apahideanu. Within the context of public debates concerning the project of the governmental majority of Constitution revision, the author re-brings into discussion the controversies concerning “unicameralism” vs. “bicameralism”; at the same time, it explores the Constitution’s relevance and applicability to the Romanian bicameral current legislation. The research begins with an empirical approach, centred on the European area, based on theses shared by specialists in what concerns certain correlations between the structure of the Parliament and that of the state, having as purpose the contextualization of Romania, as well in descriptive terms, as in explicative terms. The associated debate is structured along nine criteria of comparative analysis usable, ideally, as legislative indicators of performance. The final part is based on the analysis of the legislation of the Parliament of Romania, concerning the bicameral structure reflecting the strengths and weaknesses (p. 53).

An interesting subject is approached by Dănuț Florin Sandovici in the article “Republicile non-arabe din Orientul Mijlociu. Orientări geopolitice și de securitate în perioada post-Războiului Rece” [“The Non-Arab Republics from the Middle East. Geopolitical and Security Directions during Post-Cold War Era”]. Within the geopolitical system of the Middle East, the non-Arab countries (Israel, Turkey and Iran) are a special category of regional actors that play an important role in the dynamics of the area. The recent history, starting in 1991, was marked by the disputes of these states with their Arab neighbours. The apparition of the “Arab Spring” (in 2011) has led to an increased role for Turkey and Iran in the geopolitical equation in the region and within this context it was influenced by the increase or development of Islamist “nuclei”. The Israel was forced to adapt his strategy of security to the possible evolutions in the political orientations of the Arab states. In conclusion, the author emphasizes: “Regardless of the academic and sometimes political orientations of researchers preoccupied by this region... we appreciate the fact that the inter-Arab relations or of the Arab states with the other actors of the international community cannot be dissociated from their relations with Israel, Turkey and Iran. Even more, a complete investigation of the evolutions of the area imposes the consideration of the role of the USA and USSR, within this system, although these respective states are not a part of the region of the Middle East, from a geographical point of view” (p. 110).

The article that closes this issue of the journal, entitled “Liberté, ordre et gouvernement, entre Anciens et Moderns. Du modèle politique roumain (1821-1830)” is signed by Raluca Alexandrescu. The author examines the manner in which Romanian political thought from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was connected to the intellectual circuit of Western European modernity. Romanian political thought, the study shows, was often tentative in adopting the ideas of the liberal majority, triggered by the French Revolution, and also in synchronizing with the rhythm of political changes. Thus, concepts such as constitutional regime, rule of law, freedom and order were combined with other concepts as sovereignty, political legitimacy, within a doubttable philosophical context, drawing a thin demarcation line between “Antique” and “modern”.

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(Translation from Romanian by Henrieta Șerban)

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