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THE GENERATIONAL ISSUE IN POLITICS.
A REAFFIRMED DEBATE

The central subject of Oliver Ward's text (July 31st, 2018), in *OpenDemocracy* is the issue of generations involved in politics. Ward's analysis focuses on clarification and particularization of this topic in the United States. Thus, he emphasizes the importance of voting for the well-being of the American political system, as well as the vitality of having millennials involved in politics as much as possible. The "Peter Pans" of our day, as Ward calls them, are getting more and more vulnerable, frustrated and doubtful about their own personae – the main reason being the conspicuous economic uncertainty that has been going on in the United States of America for the past couple of years – which frequently leads them back to the comfort of their parents' home. Also, as opposed to baby boomers, millennials work more and still get paid less, regardless of their sometimes-unwanted degrees, which add more weight on their shoulders. Once they realized that these matters are not taken into consideration by powerful people (e.g. the Government), millennials stopped stressing about politics, and this is the main cause of important debates around a subject that does not seem to have an end. Millennials show that they have bigger problems that cannot be solved within a four-year term, a fact that drives them even further away from politics. Even so, Ward suggests that they have enough strength and potential to change the American system by only pursuing this matter in a serious and mature way, at the same time stating that they are "disaffected by the pursuit of education and a better life that has left them saddled with debt". Romania's 2000's generation is no different. It started out slow and shy, after sacrificing everything for the biggest political change that the country has ever seen and rose from its own ashes to become the most involved part of the society, in a unique way: poetry.

From the total of analyses and studies dedicated to the types of generations considered for the substantiation and application of the theory relating to the political field and its socio-economic or literary ramifications, the records we emphasize are those of the concept of *generation* in accordance with the specialization of the field concerned. Thus, we mention "the *biological generation, the genealogical generation and the demographic generation*", three classifications of the concept from the point of view of *spheres of existence*, generations that "share the criterion numerological, (criterion) that makes the delimitation much easier and clearer" (Ingrid Tomonicska, *"The concept of generation"*, in Rodica Ilie, Dan Botezatu coord., *Models, concepts and contexts of the history of Contemporary Romanian literature*, Brașov: Transilvania University of Brașov Publishing house, 2016) compared to all other generational categories. In contrast, we insist on the *"social generation"*, whose interest "has been resuscitated with developments in demographic, cultural and intellectual fields" and the "*historical-political generation*". By reporting the outlined classification and clarification to the issue of the *new* millennial generation, the most important aspect is standing in opposition to previous generations.

However, there are vertical *relations* between them, and within each of them there are *horizontal relations*. Thus, "through the biological, social, historical etc. parts, the generational change is continuous, so the verticality exists without ruptures – not in the attitudinal way, but regarding continuity and dynamics of human existence" (*Ibid.*). As a generation of controversy, "dissatisfaction" or "discontent", it is relevant to think about the general concept of generation, given that most studies in this regard present the *disadvantages* of the term and every researcher "tries to define it, describe it, classify it" (*Ibid.*, p. 68), the process being a very difficult one.

As for the Romanian space, the period following the moment of the Revolution of 1989 was crucial for determining the trajectory that was going to be the foundation of yet another collective imaginary within Romanian society, by default a new *generation* that was going to preserve and perpetuate the revolutionary spirit. Thus, the pressure felt by the *first free generation of the Romanian post-revolutionary space* led, in the first place, to some kind of passiveness, even apparent rejection of political involvement (the exception being voting), so that, in the end, it would make sure that the lessons learnt and the realities gained are brought to life.

The generation Y of Romania is represented by "young people born between 1980 and 2000" (Tibor Kadlót, *The political values of the millennial generation in the Central and Eastern European region. The results of the Millennial Dialogue International Youth Research in regional comparison*, Budapest: Policy Solutions, 2016, p. 7), for which the politician did not present, at first, too much interest, the reason being simple and obvious: a lack of confidence. After the fight (won with young sacrifices) for democracy, all things that seemed impossible before turned into democratic norms, metamorphosized in fundamental rights guaranteed to each and every citizen. However, the long period of tyranny had inhibited the society, requiring a transitional period of adaptation to the new standards, during which the foundation of the ideal democracy of European origin was laid. The importance of the transitional period has its roots in the construction of an active society governed by democratic principles implemented over several years, in order to finally reach a rule of law, with a people involved in political life through all *democratic instruments*. Active participation in political endeavours is an important part of the image of a developed society, for which we support the fact that the *generation Y* – as the first democratic generation in post-revolutionary Romanian space – represents the hope of making the wishes submitted in the winter of 1989 become true.

The problem of the foundation and consolidation of the democratic political system in contemporary Romanian society is caused by an important (perhaps even crucial) factor, namely the popular support of institutions and their rules. In other words, the level of consolidation of a democratic political system depends on the 'attachment of citizens to democratic principles' and on its level of understanding political culture (Marius Precupețu, *Post-communist democratization and European integration*, Bucharest: Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2006, p. 125).

The 2000's generation is the product of an intermediary period that has multiple forms of manifestation – out of which we mention, the poetic and political manifestations in the Romanian space – of democratic instruments, in a diplomatic and subtle manner, which, at the same time, carries a firmness determined by the importance of the two processes. Hence, a perpetuating metamorphosis of the post-communist poetic project into a political one is still happening – that is the process by which Millennial poets manifest in the social environment, aiming to create some political resistance with a poetry face – in other words, the way in which they respond to politics through poetry.

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