

ABSTRACTS

ANDRÁS BOZÓKI-DÁNIEL HEGEDŰS
The Externally Constrained Hybrid Regime
Political Regime Typology and the Case of Hungary

Our study focuses on the ever-widening grey zone between democracy and dictatorship, and applies the findings of the scholarship on hybrid regimes to the characteristics of the Orbán-regime. The issue of democracy and dictatorship is not an “either-or” problem; rather it is one that can be best described along a continuum. We argue that, due to its hitherto overlooked characteristics, the Orbán-regime belongs to a class of its own among hybrid regimes. The unique properties of this Hungarian hybrid regime follow from the fact that it is part of the European Union, which is made up of democratic member states. Since member states transfer parts of their sovereignty to the European Union, the EU is a site of both “domestic” and “foreign” policy-making, that is, as regime theory suggests, it is both the context in which the Hungarian government operates and an integral part of the Hungarian regime itself. Consequently, the EU functions as a “regime sustaining” and “regime constraining” factor for Hungary, which compels us to describe the current governmental structure of Hungary as an “externally constrained hybrid regime”.

Keywords: hybrid regime, Orbán regime, European Union, democracy, autocracy, dictatorship, multi-level policy, externally constrained

ZSÓFIA PAPP
Show me Your Campaign, and I'll Tell You Who You Are!
Campaign Personalisation and Legislator Activities in Hungary

Campaign personalisation is often perceived as those actions through which parliamentary representatives can attract a personal vote. It may imply that a representative is willing to deviate from the party line and focus more on particular goals, for instance local constituency issues. The main question of this paper is whether we can expect MPs who personalise their campaigns to behave differently when elected than those following the party line during election time. The Hungarian data from the Comparative Candidates Survey is used to measure personalised campaigning at the 2010 general elections. Multivariate models explain constituency orientation in attitudes, voting dissent

at roll-call and the local orientation of parliamentary questions. The findings indicate that personalised campaigns do not imply a more intensive focus on the constituency in parliament, nor a greater willingness to deviate from party lines. This in turn raises serious doubts about the extent to which voters can select the appropriate candidates on the basis of the election campaign.

Keywords: campaign; personalisation; parliamentary questioning; voting unity; constituency orientation

ANDRÁS HAJDÚ

Could the Nationalists of Europe Unite?
The Radical Right Groups in the European Parliament

In the last few years it has been increasingly recognised that European integration and the changes in the European Union have brought about changes to the political parties in Europe. On the one hand, the European Parliament offers a new career path for politicians, while at the same time the Groups in the European Parliament and the Europarties also have an impact on political parties (Ladrech, 2012). However, the international alliances and organisations of the radical right have received limited academic attention to date, and those researchers who have dealt with the topic have generally claimed that, because of their nationalism and authoritarian political style, these parties are unable to create a stable, extensive and long-standing supranational political formation (Mudde, 2007; Almeida, 2010; Startin, 2010). This article aims to explore the patterns of the cooperation of the radical right parties in the European Parliament, as well as to present how the findings on the Europe of Nations and Freedom (ENF) group complement or modify existing knowledge in this field.

Keywords: radical right; European Parliament; parliamentary group

SZILVIA HORVÁTH

The Prospects and Limits of Democracy

Democracy is the key concept for our contemporary political practices, and its roots can be traced back to classical Greek – primarily Athenian – politics. Despite the significant differences, classical political thought may serve as a valuable tool for reinterpreting contemporary democratic ideas in the new era of instability of democratic values. In classical democracy the public and the political are intertwined, and each citizen has equal access to the realm of politics. As a result there are plenty of modes and opportunities for political action available to them, which makes participation in politics a way of life. The power of the people – as expressed in the concept of democracy – means both the ‘capacity to

do things' (in the words of Josiah Ober), that is, initiating politics in the common realm, and at the same time the responsibility for the decisions made there.

Keywords: democracy, classical political thought, participation, political debate, politics as a way of life

MÁTÉ SZAKÁLI

The Relationship between Islam and the West in the Thoughts of 'Martin Luther of Islam'

The Main Views of Abdolkarim Soroush about Religion and Democracy

Religious, cultural, social, economic and political interaction between Islam and the West, at different levels and in various forms, is a centuries old phenomenon. In the 21st century, the interactions are no less intense and relevant, shaping further the pattern of the Islam-West puzzle. However, in the post-September 11 context the discourse is increasingly framed in terms of an "us and them" issue. This paper analyzes the main thoughts of Abdolkarim Soroush (1945-), a leading, controversial and influential Muslim scholar from Iran on the relations between Islam and the West. After a brief overview of his life, Soroush's essential claims will be analyzed in a broader context regarding the „us and them" discourse, and the relationship between religion and politics; in a narrower aspect regarding the concept of West-toxication. The aim of this paper is to show how this scholar, who is often dubbed by both supporters and critics the "Martin Luther of Islam", frames the problem.

Keywords: Islam, Iran, West, democracy, religion, political philosophy

ATTILA ANTAL

The Study of Populism in the Perspective of Democratic Theory

Our thinking about democracy has been fundamentally reshaped by populism, and the relationship between populism and democracy has become one of the key questions in the academic literature. This study aims to provide an overview of key features of the political literature that foregrounds populism in the context of democracy. It is important to stress that this is only one part of the literature on populism: many consider populism as a distinct ideology or as a technique of political communication; this review will only consider research that connects populism directly with democracy, which I consider to be important to bring us to a fuller understanding of the phenomenon. This study will highlight in particular two streams of thinking, one characterizing populism as a 'pathology' of democracy, the other theorizing it as a subtype of democracy.

Keywords: populism, democracy, theory of democracy, populist democracy

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