Recenze

Jiří Bílý et al.: Democracy and Postdemocracy in the European Union - Current Issues and Possible Background
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The presented monograph is comprised of two basic chapters, which are thematically divided into smaller sections. The individual chapters have a logical continuity and they perform a unified and coherent text. The book examines several aspects of the issue from different perspectives and thus offers an unbiased and sufficiently elaborated view of the issue in the context of its current knowledge. The presented goals of the monograph are clearly and logically defined. The examined text fulfils the declared aims in all main respects.

The authors of the publication have chosen a clear aim, which is to clarify the principle of political participation and legislative requirements for the functioning of countries and their democratic systems in terms of common goals and policies of the European Union. They also seek to assess the differences in the structure as well as the functioning of political parties, their impact on both the economic and social models as well as the policy systems within the Member States of the Union. The complexity of this problem is quite high, partially due to the fact that each country of the European Union is undergoing different social, economic, societal and demographic changes and also their history is completely different, given the fact that their political orientations and their systems have been so far dominant for national functioning. The emphasis is placed primarily on the identification of common and specific features of the systems in terms of legislation and legal requirements within the national policies of the countries of the European Union.

The text presents a comprehensive analytical-synthetic study of an interdisciplinary nature. Given the issue, it can be stated that the individual topics covered in this specific monograph are undoubtedly timeless. This especially pays when we perceive the European Union as a region from the perspective of global political issues and we can declare that these issues practically affect each and every citizen of the Union. The depth of the performed analysis as well as the research methods used can be assessed as high quality ones. The methodological framework is appropriately chosen and is based on both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The first chapter of the submitted monograph deals with the issue of political democracy from the perspective of the internal domestic process of national approaches and attitudes

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within the Slovak Republic. Slovakia is a state based on very similar economic, political, legislative and social systems as the Czech Republic. After the change of the centrally controlled economy into a market driven one and especially after the change of the political system, the country has undergone a slow path towards the democracy, where alternated certain political groupings and populist leaders of individual political parties in the parliament. Their parliamentary democracy influenced not only the understanding, direction and functioning of the Visegrad Four Group, but also the overall perspective within the European Union. The change in political representation in recent months is assumed as an option that the political thinking could be democratized, and both the corruption and the bureaucracy could be reduced at the national level.

The second chapter focuses on the issue of economic, political and social trends within the European Union and their partners at the supranational level. In the case of individual partners that affect both the power, stability and competitiveness of the state at the domestic as well as at regional level, it is important to make one note. Certain groups and business lobbyists of both domestic as well as multinational companies, who influence not only economic but also political power, have come to the fore. This chapter highly professionally and eruditely examines that issue and is based not only on economic and political attributes, but mainly stems out from the strategies and concepts that are relevant for the given period.

The text in its entire context relies on highly topical and professional literary resources, which are cited according to the current citation standard. The resources used by the monograph are of high quality and are both transparently and continuously cited as well as listed in the complete reference list.

The monograph examines various aspects of the issue from different angles and thus offers an unbiased and sufficiently elaborated view of the topic in the context of its current knowledge. The examined text meets all formal requirements and does not contain any shortcomings that should be pointed out. In general, the submitted monograph can be evaluated as a material that meets the requirements for this type of writing. The findings presented in the text as well as the conclusions of the monograph can be used as input for entities dealing with the issue of democracy within the European Union from a legislative point of view. The main findings can be used predominantly for the needs of teachers and professionals in legal fields as well as public administration at the supranational level within the European Union.