

BOOK REVIEW

Cezar Barzea – „Policies and Institutions of the European Union”, Corint Publishing House, Bucharest, 2001, 214p.

Addressed to all those who are interested in the historical evolution of the European Union, its institutions and their activity and also the economic, political, military and monetary policies of the European Union, the work is, as the author says: “a synthesis of what is already known for a certainty and the foreseeing of hypotheses or scenarios about the future development of the integration process”.

Having as start-point this idea, the author organised the book in seven distinct chapters, each of them approaching a specific issue regarding the EU: the European identity, the European construction process, the European institutions, the European economy, the common policies, the economic and monetary union, the future of European project.

Also, every chapter is composed of several modules, detailing the general issues approached by within it.

The work ends with the presentation of the biography used for elaborating the work, a glossary of European terms and also an anthology of documents on European integration.

For a better understanding of the content of the work, we will shortly present the topic of each chapter and finally we will draw a few conclusions about the importance of the work.

The first chapter, “European Identity” is made up by two modules: “Europe: area or territory?” and “Evolution of the European idea”. In the first module the author’s intention is to identify the European area and the historical pattern of its evolution. In the second module he the evolution of the European identity conscience.

The first chapter ends with an important chronology of the European union projects, beginning with Charles the Great (768-814), considered “father of Europe” and finishing with Aristide Briand.

The second chapter, “The European Construction: Stages, Principles and Legal Foundations”, consists of two modules: “The Birth and the Evolution of the European Community” and “The European Integration: Federalism and Subsidiary”.

While, in the first module the main topic is the post-war evolution of the European Construction, insisting on several events: 1950 – Schuman Plan, 1951 – the Treaty of Paris, 1957 – the Treaty of Rome, in the second module, the emphasis is on the legal and political matters regarding the European integration process.

The third chapter, “European Union Institutions”, composed of two modules: “European institutions” and “Decision-making process of the European institutions”, provides the reader with an important amount of information on the European institutions: their configuration - in accordance with the Treaty of Maastricht -, characteristics, prerogatives and decision-making process.

Analysing the four decision-making procedures within the Community system (consultation, consent, co-operation, co-decision), Cezar Barzea supports the readers by providing them with a series of helping schemes, this way simplifying the understanding of the decision-making process.

The fourth chapter, “Economic Europe”, organised in two modules: “The stages of European economic construction” and “The Common Market” presents the European integration process from the economical standpoint.

Emphasising on the stages of the economical integration (ECSC, EEC, The Common Market, European Union), Cezar Barzea analyses the process of achieving the four types of

freedom (free movement of goods, persons, financial assets and services) and their economic implications; presents the three distinct policies of strengthening the Common Market (supporting the small and medium enterprises, competition and consumer protection policies) and describes the advantages and the draw-backs of the Monetary and Financial Union.

The fifth chapter, "Common Policies", comprises two modules: "The Welfare Policies" and "The Common Action Policies".

Analysing in the first module, the regional development policy and the social policy and in the second module, the common agriculture policy; the energetic policy; the transportation policy; the research and development policy and the environmental policy, prof. Cezar Barzea explains to the reader a broad range of terms such as: "European Fund for Regional Development", "European Social Fund", "European Fund for Agricultural Orientation and Guarantee", "Financial Instrument for Fisheries Orientation", "Structural Funds", "Cohesion Fund".

The sixth chapter, "Economic and Monetary Union", presents the evolution of the Common Monetary Policy emphasising the three stages of its development ("the European Monetary Snake", European Monetary System, Economic and Monetary Union).

The seventh chapter, "European Project: from Myth and Achievement", is structured in two modules: "The Enlargement towards East" and "Outlook and challenges".

In the first module, the reader will find information about the main events related to the European Union enlargement, the elements of the pre-acceding process and the characteristics of the main strategies adopted to achieve the European enlargement towards East.

In the second module the emphasis of the presentation falls on the definition of the three circles of European integration, of the European citizenship and identity.

Drawing the conclusion, we can observe that prof. Cezar Barzea's work stands out from others works, first of all, through the complex approach of European integration topic, providing the reader not only with a historical and political dimension but also with an economical point of view.

Addressed not only to those specialising in the European integration field, but also to those already specialised, the work has the worth of providing the reader with both a glossary of European terms and an anthology of documents on European integration, this way simplifying the understanding of this topic.

Luminița-Cristiana Mușat

Adrian Pop – "*Strategy of European Integration*", Ed. Sylvi, Bucharest, 2003, 202 pages

Professor Adrian Pop's book, *Strategy of European Integration* is a very good analysis of European integration process.

The work is divided in seven chapters, each of them containing a stage of European integration process and all of them considered together form a self-explaining whole: European Integration – evolution, concept and tools; European Union Institutions; European Union Enlargement; Security and Defense – components of European Integration; European Union Strategy for its proximity areas; Debates for European Union future; Romanian Strategy for European Union adhesion.

The first chapter, *European Integration – evolution, concept and tools*, begins with the presentation of a short history of European Integration process, the set-up process of European Community and its evolution; then the chapter deals with the presentation of theoretical patterns of

European Integration: federalism, neo-functionalism, inter-governmental and multi-level governance.

The author's conclusion is that the EU structure corresponds to the last pattern.

The first chapter is concluded with the presentation of the Structural Funds, used to eliminate the economic differences between the member states: European Social Fund, European Fund of Regional Development, European Fund of Orientation and Agricultural Guarantee.

In the next chapter, meaningfully named *European Union Institutions*, the EU institutions are enumerated:

Common institutions:

- European Parliament, its structure and organization, its competencies – normative, budgetary, political, international, community law defense;
- European Council, its structure, organization and evolution, it is an important institution of EU because at this level are debated communitarian construction;
- EU Council, which is the main forum for decision of EU;
- European Commission, its composition, structure and competencies;
- European Court of Law, its legal nature, composition and procedures;
- European Court of Account, composition, competencies;

Institutions: European Investment Bank, Central European Bank, European Investment Fund, the Ombudsman; auxiliary bodies of European Communities: Advisory Committee CECA, Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee – composition, structure, competencies and internal organization; as well as other autonomous bodies (agencies), such as: European Agency of Environment (EEA), European Reconstruction Agency (EAR), EUROPOL, etc.

The second chapter ends with the presentation of the main legal documents adopted at communitarian level: regulations (rules), orders (directions), recommendations, resolutions and notices, agreements and conventions.

The third chapter is dedicated to enlargement of EU and starts with the presentation of the pre-adhesion strategy of the EU candidate states; then follows with the presentation of the EU financial assistance for the candidate countries through its programs: PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, the European Agreements and Structural Dialogue and we are presented with a detailed analysis of negotiation process: how is it started, the conditions for the candidate countries, how is it finished.

In the end of this chapter the author makes an analysis about the cost and the benefits of the EU enlargement when compared to the non-enlargement options.

In the fourth chapter the author approaches the defense and the security elements of European integration: ESDI, CFSP, ESDP, and in the end are presented the Romanian proposals in this area: her contingents for peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding.

In the fifth chapter are presented the EU strategies for its proximity areas: Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and for the Balkans: the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) which is made up on: Stabilization and Association Agreements SAAs, Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization CARDS, Autonomous Trade Measures ATM and the Forum EU- West Balkans and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

In the sixth chapter is debated the future of Europe through the presentation of European Convention and the European Constitution Draft, which are very important for the future of Europe because includes the main stipulations for an enlargement Europe.

The last chapter is dedicated to Romanian strategy for EU accession.

In the end of this chapter, the author makes a parallelism between the advantages and the constraints of European Integration for Romania. His conclusion is that the Romania will obtain the EU accession. In turn, European Union helps Romania through his funds: PHARE, SAPARD, ISPA to make important step in this way.

The work is a very good reference material, a complex analysis of European integration process, presenting a large variety of points of view related to this issue.

The book can be granted the merit of bringing an important amount of information about a less studied issue in Romania.

Based on a significant number of documents (a representative bibliography, comprising basic and complementary Community documents, books and web-site), the book has the merit of trying to accustom the readers with the main documents of EU, WEU, NATO that regard the issue approached in this paper.

Constanța Cristina Ghiță

Florin Șperlea, *From the Royal Army to the Popular Army. The Sovietization of the Romanian Military (1948-1955)*, Bucharest, Ziua, 2003, 333 p.

Florin Șperlea is a young and promising Romanian historian, who few months ago has published his second work. The book called *From the Royal Army to the Popular Army. The Sovietization of the Romanian Military (1948-1955)* should become a basic tool for students and scholars who intend to study the problem of communist establishment in Romania after the Second World War.

Although, first, the reader may think that this book is concerned only with military structures, he will have the pleasant surprise to discover a deep and a keen critical analysis of the Romanian society during a crucial historical period.

This book has developed, as the author himself testifies, from his PhD thesis, which it was coordinated by Professor Dinu C. Giurescu and it has been very well received when asserted. Thus, the publishing of this project becomes imperative for our historiography field for many reasons.

First of all, this necessity is due to the lack from the Romanian historiography of an objective work about the military structures at the beginning of the communist era. Before 1989 such kind of works preoccupied with the military field should've answered to the communist regime's legitimacy needs. Another justification of this book's importance stands in the fact that it brings into the light many primary sources found by the author in various archives and libraries. All these documents couldn't have answered to the criterion of an objective and proper analysis during the time of the communist regime. Of great importance is also the fact that this book represents the spirit of the new Romanian historiography. It is a demonstration of the author's ability to go beyond simple narration of military and political events up to identify psychological lines, propagandistic models and modalities of persuasion and actions promoted by the totalitarian regimes.

The book is divided into four major parts, a foreword signed by Professor Giurescu, an annex which includes an important selection of unpublished documents and an afterword in English. Șperlea begins his study from 1945, when the army leadership still belonged to old traditional and royal elites and ends it in 1955 when the new 'socialist soldier', as the Soviet model requested, was in control of every structure.

The first part deals with a presentation of the Romanian society from the end of the Second World War, within the framework of which the military structures had functioned. As a special section of this chapter the author stresses some key concepts and the fact that the sovietization process from Romania took place within a regional system.

The second part is dedicated to the period of effective action developed by the Communist Party from 1948 to 1950 in order 'to conquer' the army. Inside this range of time he establishes chronological phases and describes the model, the doctrine and the type of action which the

Communists had followed to achieve the purpose of getting control over military. This period was followed by the phase of inside army action from 1950-1955 at the end of which army's loyalty belonged to the Party, not to the country.

Florin Șperlea proves that the sovietization process had been a punctilious work made by a minor group — the communists in 1945 represented only a minority— from the Romanian political system, which in the end was successful because of Russian support.

It should be pointed out that the author sets down a very useful methodological approach, which can be helpful for those who study the mechanism of taking power by the communists in other state's fields. His analysis on the military level is just a schedule of a micro cosmos, which, in order to understand correctly the sovietization process, can be transpose on the grand level of the whole society.

The book, written in a clear style, easy to understand and to follow, is an inmost examination of a 'black' period in Romanian history, concerned mainly with the evolution of a professional category, but, also, extended to the complex political and propagandist mechanism. Following, it should be pointed out that the author has the ability to perceive and to describe the delicate changes of conception of a generation. This conception change could've been one of the reasons of communism's long life in Romania.

Cristina Nedelcu

*"Romanian Identity and European Integration. Problems and Perspectives",
Editor Gabriela Gabor, Edited by Ars Docendi, Bucharest, 2003, pag.283**

These days, the European integration studies tend to become a kind of meta-discipline overshadowing all other specializations in the political science field.

A brief research in any European library catalogue shows that almost a hundred books have been published in the past ten years with at least two of the keywords "Europe," "nation," "integration" and "identity" in the title.

So, it is quite clear that the theme of European Integration presents a particular challenge and it is a profitable topic of discussion not only for the politicians, but also for the academic field.

For more understanding of the contemporary debate on the meaning of European identity, issues such as the relationship between European identity and national identity, and the necessity of *integration in the European assembly*, many initiatives have been taken at the academic level.

One of them is that which we are analyzing in the following lines.

The book *Romanian Identity and European Integration. Problems and Perspectives* is the work of a research group, established at Faculty of Letters - University of Bucharest in 2001.

This book brings together powerful and cutting edge contributions from all sides of the debate, from academics, journalists to politicians. The authors work mainly within one of three major disciplines – linguistic, law and political sciences.

It is a stimulating collection of essays, a serie of different approaches have been taken, but these collected essays are united by their common concern on European identity changes and European integration issues.

There are many issues covered by this paper and I will only examine those that I think are most worthy of discussion.

* "Identitate Românească și Integrare Europeană. Probleme și Perspective", *coordonator Gabriela Gabor, Editura Ars Docendi, București, 2003, pp. 283*

In this book's prologue, Dan Horia Mazilu – the Director of this research program underlines the aims of the conference and book, and he insists on the fact that the goal is to determine the factors which are for and versus European integration in Romanian culture.

This book is divided into five thematic sections:

First section "*European Institutions*" and the fifth section "*European Community law*" examine the institutions, their roles and interactions that produce the Community and European Union policies. A series of key concepts, such as European federalism, European citizenship, are debated by Augustin Fuerea and Raluca Georgiana Frățilă.

One of the articles defines a delicate issue such as the division of powers between the Community and its member states in the field of external relations. George Grigore also brings special insight to discussions on the meaning of national identity in the European Security and Defense Policy context.

Other articles outline the report between Romania and European Union, as well as the relationship between the Community law and the joining of new members.

A detailed presentation of Anamaria Georgiana Jilcu about European Community law reveals the priority of the communitarian law order over the law of the member states and the direct effect of an entire set of communitarian dispositions, known as "*acquis communautaire*", which is applied directly to the member states.

The section "*Communication, Advertising, Integration*" examines the relationships between tradition and modernity in Romanian linguistic field, as much as advertising.

"The globalisation process offers the framework for international hegemony of English" says Adriana Stoichitoiu Ichim in her article "*Romglish – personal option or effect of globalisation process*".

In his essay, Constantin Popescu thinks that the advertising represents an indicator of tradition and modernity in Romanian society. In his opinion, the historical past represents one of the fundamental forms of communication, such as the article revealed, but it is practically ignored in Romanian advertising field and even threatens the capacity of building the future world.

In the third section "*Romania and Europe*", Dragos Zaharia focuses on the historical projects of the construction of joint Europe. Thus, he offers a justification and even a legitimacy of this actual European integration process.

Doru Vasile Ionescu analyzes the identity and integration concepts, which are not in opposite terms. Integration is not strictly equivalent to losing one's national identity and the dissolution of the nation-state. Obviously, economic globalization, worldwide cultural assimilation, multicultural societies, and European integration will change the nation, national identities, and nationalism without, however, eliminating them.

The historical dimension is pointed out in the article of Irina Moroianu Zlatescu.

Diversity of historical context has created a series of perceptions about Europe, such as Mediterranean Europe, a Catholic Europe, or an Orthodox Europe and so on.

For the first time in its history, Europe has the possibility to form a single political entity with a European identity. That is not based on the predominance of a single nation, but on the recognition of interdependent relationships and on a common wealth of values. It can not be realized neither by the dissolution of European national identities. Irina Moroianu Zlatescu said that it would be possible only in a cultural pluralist Europe.

Following the same line, Luminița Cristiana Mușat summarizes in her essay "*Unity in diversity. Romanian Identity and European Integration*", that the diversity of the processes of construction of national identities is an essential part of nation-state and national identity. In European's case, the goal is not the creation of European identity like a national identity, based by a common cultural tradition, but the necessity to preserve national identities in the European integration process. The way the identity is imagined is therefore crucial in exploring the relationship between nationalism and European integration.

Avram Filipas completes the idea that the European culture represents proximal gender and national cultures represent its specific differences.

In the section: "*The faces of identities*" the authors stress with the deals about national identity problems in contemporary Europe on a more theoretical and/or comparative level. They evaluate the national culture as a part of the European civilization.

This chapter indicates two publications in the linguistic field: *A dictionary of European Anglicisms. A Usage Dictionary of Anglicisms in Sixteen Languages* and *A recent dictionary of linguistic*.

Also, we can mention the article of Adina Berciu Drăghicescu, which it offers a short history of the Romanian national flag, starting from the basic signification of its colors.

The authors of this section are quite right to deal pragmatically with the current theoretical debates on the identity issue and focus on the link between theory and a wide variety of national identities in current Europe. A case study is debated by Cristina Avrigeanu and shows in which form the European identity is found in Romanian society.

Finally, Dan Horia Mazilu said that the relevance of this type of research is double: scientific because of its research methods and social because of the correlation between cultural and social dates.

It is clear that the collection under review can be a contribution to the debate on European identity and European integration.

The practical application of this study research was THE PROMETEU PROJECT designed by the *International Relations Department. European Studies*. Its objective is to inform the high school's students about the functions and institutions of E.U., its foundation and its perspectives, the advantages and disadvantages of this process.

This educational program was developed from July 2002 to June 2003.

To sum up, this is an essential research work for all those who wish to be informed about one of the most important issues of our time-a matter which affects us all.

Mihaela Mustătea