

FOREWORD

The processes implied by transition, the phenomenon *per se*, and its effects on political, economic, social and cultural spheres have been intensely debated in the Political Science literature in the past decades. The increased attention paid to transitions, especially after the end of the Cold War, the fall of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, leads to testing theories and hypotheses elaborated in other contexts and provides the ground for making new ones. If the end of the Cold War could not be predicted, scholars seemed to take this as a failure and tried to predict the end of transition. However, this significant failure did not deter a new generation of scholars from approaching the issues of transition.

The Graduate Conference organized by Central European University in May 2006 approached the issue of transition from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It was primarily targeted at providing the framework for an interdisciplinary academic debate and contributing to the development of knowledge networks among peers and academics outside their field of study and specific methodological approaches. As a direct result, the conference produced valuable work with respect to its topic. Out of the forty papers presented, six were selected to be transformed into articles for the special issue of the journal. An additional paper

related to the topic was added due to its theoretical value on democracy and democratization. The articles' multidisciplinary character is a direct result of the complexity of issues present within the transition process.

The goal of this fourth issue of the CEU Political Science Journal is to reveal the multitude of topics involved in many subfields of political science, ranging from theories of democratization to the status of the international system and from party nationalization and elite behavior to gender-segregated analysis on labor markets and social policy reforms. The combination of neo-institutional and behavioralist approaches on one side, and single case-studies, comparative and large-N cases on the other side indicates the preoccupation on in-depth analysis of the phenomena, most of them challenging existing theories in the literature. The theoretical perspectives serve to strengthen the efforts made in providing new frameworks for analysis and identifying new causes for regional or world processes and phenomena.

Based on the analysis of party elites, Alexandra Ionascu and Oksana Polyuga's articles trace two current problems in the transition process in central and Eastern Europe. The former, using a case-study on Romania, emphasizes the theoretical and methodological difficulties in analyzing the professionalization of governmental elites and the development of decision-

making procedures in the cabinets, whereas Oksana Polyuga, in a comparative case-study of Russia and Ukraine, analyzes and compares how the power elite makes use of its attributes to shape voters' behavior. In the same area of parties, Daniel Bochsler focuses on party nationalization in the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe, presenting for a first time the degree of party nationalization in 16 countries of the region.

In the subfields of public policy and political economy two different approaches shed light on problems faced by Central and Eastern European states. Using the example of Romania, Simona Vonica-Radutiu elaborates on the context of social policy reform in East European countries, addressing the question of development paths in the welfare state. By conducting an analysis of ten former communist countries, Vessela Daskalova's research focuses on gender-segregated aspects of the labor market, providing an alternative explanation to the current literature on macro-economic reforms.

The two works on International Relations included in this issue follow different tracks, with different goals. Dylan Kissane's research provides a critique to the anarchic view that characterizes the discipline, drawing on inter-disciplinary approach and suggesting that, in the example of the origins of World War One,

there is evidence for an international system that is something other than anarchical. Nikolaos Panagiotou's effort of analyzing democratic peace theory rests on the premise that democratization can be seen both as an internal process towards democracy and external effort to promote or establish democratic regimes. The main argument of the paper is that democratization fails to deter states from pursuing their interests through war and fits in with the current debates regarding the newly emerging democracies.

Overall, this issue of the journal represents a survey of the preoccupations of young scholars interested in the region. These articles do not only include innovative methods to approaching classical problems in social sciences, but also provide a clear and straightforward development of solid arguments.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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presentation of research to be made at a level where it is understandable to the vast majority most of the target group.

In our attempt to promote original works, we do not accept articles that are under review at other publications or articles that have parts that were published or are forthcoming under the same form in other places. Contributions using statistical analysis have to make the proof of the data available in order to allow replicability. Formal requirements are found in “the paper requirements” section of our webpage:

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Manuscripts should be no longer than 6,000 words (for exceptional cases please address the Editorial Board), and footnotes should provide references and should not including supplementary text. The appendix must be a maximum of 5 pages.

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