

This book provides a lot of useful in-depth information by using many helpful charts and tables. Through these and the large scale research she has conducted, Petričević has managed to show the complexity and interdependence of the different factors influencing compliance. The findings that are presented are, however, very condensed, and would benefit from being expanded not through inclusion of additional data or cases, but mainly by giving the audience a less thick and more extended exposition of the study. Nevertheless, the author has made an excellent contribution to the understanding of the actual topic of compliance with EU anti-discrimination legislation. Overall this informative and thoroughly researched book will be of interest to a broad audience of academics and practitioners, as well as an invaluable basis for further research on factors influencing compliance, as well as on the discrepancies between different states and their ability to comply.

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Lavinia Stan & Diane Vancea (eds), *Post-Communist Romania at Twenty-Five. Linking Past, Present, and Future*. London: Lexington Books, 2015, xix + 304pp., £70.00/\$100.00 h/b.

TWO AND A HALF DECADES AFTER THE ROMANIAN REGIME CHANGE Stan and Vancea convened some of the leading academics working on post-communist Romania to evaluate the country's transition. The volume they assembled puts under scrutiny a wide range of aspects of Romania's post-communist transition, from the expectations formulated in the beginning of the 1990s to the realities of the recent years of post-EU accession. Broadly speaking, the volume depicts an ambivalent post-communist democracy, which, although failing to live up to the expectations formulated in 1989, outperforms many other former communist regimes.

The 12 chapters are organised around four topics. The volume starts with the expectations formulated during and after 1989 and Romania's struggle to come to terms with its totalitarian heritage. It then goes on to discuss identity politics and the post-communist media and political culture, which leads into the third part centred on party politics, representation, and the role of presidents. The final part discusses the rule of law and civil society activism in recent times, after Romania joined the EU. In total, 19 scholars contributed to the volume. This makes it one of the most all-encompassing depictions of Romania's recent experiences, as many of these scholars come from very different disciplines of the social sciences.

The book tells a story of an ambiguous transition. Very soon after the emotionally intense moments of the 1989 revolution (as reflected by the letters of Katherine Verdery), a post-communist elite assumed power. The emerging elite refused to condemn outright the communist experience and to engage in measures of transitional justice (Stan & Tismaneanu). The new government's vision, as exemplified by its approach to the major investments inherited from the previous regime, implied gradual changes rather than ruptures. In fact, it continued some of the major plans to re-design public places, even if these plans often carried totalitarian symbols (Light & Young).

A similar ambivalence can also be seen in the post-communist order which emerged. From the initial unity built by the uprising against Ceaușescu, an exclusionary, heavily ethnicised politics and public discourse evolved. In spite of demands for recognition of minorities, especially Hungarians (Salat & Novak), and feminist activism to counteract the newly formed modern patriarchy (Miroiu), women and ethnic minorities continued to be excluded from political/social/economic equality. For both of these groups, informal societal practices perpetuated their disadvantaged position, despite the imposition of state regulations designed to counteract this trend.

In terms of social change, in spite of the sweeping reforms during the country's transition towards democracy, initiatives from below face limited prospects. Mass political participation is driven by extreme polarisation and political crisis (Cinpoes), and amplified by media which can only be labelled 'partially free' and mostly serve the interests of their owners (Gross). Yet, in a few high-profile cases, social movements have been able to stop government plans, for instance in the case of the Rosia Montana gold mine. However, in these cases the role of the EU was crucial, as it provided the transnational networks which empowered domestic actors and let them succeed (Parau).

From a more top-down perspective, the quality of representation and the political elite's commitment towards democratisation is questioned by several authors. As King and Marian show, constituency work by incumbent members of parliament does not result in greater chances of getting re-elected, which they take as a sign of the lack of substantive representation. However, the more terms members of parliament serve, the higher their chances to get re-elected, which points towards the high survival rate of the regime-changing elite. Once in parliament, anti-democratic practices by parts of the governing elite survive, however, with some partisan differences. Namely, the post-communist Social Democratic party stands out (Gallagher) as it was highly involved in triggering some of the above-mentioned political crisis. In this environment, the public trusts individual politicians, presidents in particular, rather than institutions or parties. However, in Romania, although presidents get elected directly, they do not possess the constitutional powers to deliver on their electoral promises and public expectations about policy changes. Nevertheless some of them were heavily engaged in pushing their political vision through the political parties and the government (Stan & Vancea).

The above picture only changed to a limited extent with Romania's EU accession. The key role that the EU plays in Romanian politics consists in safeguarding the rule of law (Deletant), fighting corruption, and providing transnational networks which empower civil society activists (Parau). However, most of the changes the EU initiated with regards to Romanian politics were in the pre-accession period, and have been successful due to the EU's informal, rather than formal powers.

It is difficult to pinpoint what is missing from such an all-encompassing picture of Romania's 25 year post-communist evolution. Nevertheless, I believe some reflections on the economic aspects of the transition, on the effects of rapid growth coupled with rising inequalities (characteristic of the second decade after 1990), and on the consequences of the Great Recession might have contributed to the image of post-communist Romania which the volume draws. Especially since Romania was among the countries most hard hit by the Great Recession, and it witnessed extremely harsh austerity measures. These had long-lasting consequences in Romanian politics, including fuelling street protests and political activism which in turn played a great role in deciding the presidential elections of 2014. This election is the last episode which some authors in the volume discuss as a possible turning point in Romania's ambivalent transition. In this respect, the Romanian politics of periodical resets does not promise less turbulent times for the future than in its last 25 years.

Any collected volume, especially one which encompasses contributions from different fields, inevitably results in chapters of varying depth. Nevertheless, several of these chapters provide an original extension of the existing academic literature, and the volume itself yields probably the fullest picture of Romania's post-communist evolution. It is an instructive read for anyone interested in the country's recent past.

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