

Veronika Kmetóňy Gazdová – Ferdinand Korn:

**Citizen and state between democracy and partocracy.
Constitutional and political science penetration of the definitions
of mutual correlation of the citizen as the originator of state
power, the state and political parties.**

**Občan a štát medzi demokraciou a partokraciou. Ústavnoprávny
a politologický prienik definícií vzájomnej korelácie občana ako
pôvodcu štátnej moci, štátu a politických strán.**

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ISBN 978-80-263-1650-3.

The monograph is the work of experienced authors – Veronika Kmetóňy Gazdová and Ferdinand Korn, who, thanks to their profiling (political scientist and lawyer), had all the prerequisites to deal consistently with the topic of the monograph, from those aspects which seem the most relevant from the point of view of the contemporary social science. PhDr. Veronika Kmetóňy Gazdová, PhD. is a graduate of the Faculty of Arts of the Prešov University in Prešov in the field Political Science, she defended her dissertation work at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, in the field of "Theory of Politics". She devoted, among other areas, the phenomenon of partocracy, the field of social policy and the political science aspects of the social sphere in her scientific activities and research. JUDr. PhDr. ThDr. Ferdinand Korn, PhD. is a graduate of the Faculty of Law of the Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, in addition to a doctorate in Law, he also received a doctorate in Political Science and Theology and defended his dissertation work at the Gustav Radbuch Institute of Law, UPJŠ Faculty of Law in Košice.

Thanks to the relatively broad scientific focus of the authors, the publication can provide interdisciplinary view of the relationship between democracy and partocracy which is undoubtedly one of its benefits. It mainly combines the aspects of Political Science, State Law, Theoretical Law, Constitutional Law and Sociology. On the base of these starting points, it identifies and analyzes the problems of democracy development in the conditions of a flourishing partocracy. It pays attention to the essence and system of analyzed social phenomena and entities and the relationship between them as well as the dynamic process of their development and continuous change based on the action of various external and internal factors which cause them and affect their functioning.

Based on the above starting points, the authors have created a relatively wide space not only for a thorough description of the studied subject of the publication but also for finding unresolved problems and translating ideas for discussing the most appropriate modeling

of a well-organized and functioning democratic society. From the reader's point of view, the authors choose their own structure which reflects their way of thinking about the topic and is a suitable tool for arranging the content of the monograph into a coherent whole with continuously following parts. It is divided into ten chapters, supplemented by a preface, introduction and conclusion. In the introductory three chapters they characterize the basic institutes, provide their conceptual analysis, definition of their basic features and opinions of selected authorities in the field of political and legal science. The fourth part introduces the basic ideological starting points of political parties in the creation of their policy. A substantial part of the monograph is devoted to the problem of partocracy. In the fifth part, the authors describe its origin, essence and external manifestations, in the sixth chapter they pay attention to the issues of the rule of law and its principles and their threat by lush partocracies. The seventh part is devoted to the principle of sovereignty as a qualitative characteristic of state power. In the eighth chapter the issue of political parties (and partocracies) is examined from the aspect of the relationship between citizen – political party – state.

In the ninth part, the authors present proposals *de lege ferenda* and *de constitutione ferenda* which from their point of view can contribute to the elimination of the phenomenon of partocracy. In the reflection before the conclusion (Chapter 10), they deal with partocracies in the context of emergencies and crisis situations among other things. As well as the overview of the content of the work shows the monograph deals with the issues that are increasingly relevant in today's democracies. Although it is generally accepted that state governance systems would probably be difficult to function without political parties, their increasingly aggressive and large-scale infiltration of entities is proving to be a disease of democracy in the hands of the state. Issues how it is possible to consolidate democracy in this system have been the subject of professional public interest and the content of several professional works especially of a political focus for a very long time.

The subject of the monograph are complex social relations which presupposes an extensive approach to the issue and the process of processing the topic from general relations to individual problems as well as partial goals which are accepted in the assessed work. The authors apply a wide range of standard methods of scientific work especially conceptual, qualitative, relational and causal analysis, generalization, conclusion as well as comparison. The introductory parts provide a basic conceptual analysis, in the main parts of the work relational analysis dominates, the European context of the subject of the work is captured using a comparative method. At the end of the work the authors try to provide conclusive reflections and considerations *de lege ferenda* that are more in the nature of general ideas about ideal solutions (even radical) or states and have the potential to contribute to the professional discussion of the issues.

The work is written in a well-readable style, with the use of justified enthusiasm in the introduction, with appropriately chosen quotations at the beginning of the chapters and well-asked rhetorical questions to which the authors provide their arguments or leave them intentionally open, trying to engage the reader. In several aspects critical mirror is set up but the goal is not an end in itself but a constructive critique with the searching for alternatives.

It is also necessary to highlight a good philosophical background of the authors. Convincing iusnaturalist view (e.g. in a matters of the "classical" i-positivist principle of legal certainty) repeatedly leads to an emphasis on increased demands on the ethics of individuals' behavior and a change of the moral state of society including changes in political culture at the same time.

The monograph with its formal aspect, structure, used methodology, interdisciplinary character and content processing represents a full-fledged and beneficial work of this type of publication in the political science field as well as in the field of state science, theory of law and constitutional law. Supposed primary recipients of the work are scientific and pedagogical personnel at universities. However the monograph has the potential to attract the attention of the general professional public and also can be served as a useful study material for students.

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