

## Recenzie

### **ŠTEFANČÍK, Radoslav: Uvažovanie o politike (nielen) v nemecky hovoriacom prostredí**

Trnava: SSRP, 2012, 315 s. ISBN 978-80-969043-4-1.

The publication of the Slovak political scientist Radoslav Štefančík that was published in the year 2012 under the name of „The consideration about the politics (not only) in the German-speaking environment“ is a unique publishing achievement in terms of the Slovak science about the politics. As the author himself remarks, it is not a scientific monograph, but it is a textbook designed for the students of the political science, but also for the students of the philosophy, or other cognate, theoretically specialized scientific disciplines. The author of this publication follows to mediate the Slovak students the ambitions about the knowledge of the authors who also due to the language barrier (in particular, in the works in the German language) remain in Slovakia and they are undiscovered so far.

The author represents a life path and the major works of 53 authors of the original German-speaking environment in an encyclopaedic manner. All authors were especially acting in Germany, in Austria, in Switzerland, or in the destination country of the emigration in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They are therefore the authors who were not only writing in the German language, but because of the emigration from the Nazi regime, but also because of the current trends in the social-scientific disciplines, they were writing, or they still write in the English language. The only exception among the authors is a political scientist Bassam Tibi. Although this author is of the Syrian origin, he achieved an extraordinary recognition in Germany, thanks to his scientific and publications activities.

Since the political science as a modern scientific discipline was formed in Germany after the Second World War, namely by the engaging of the personalities from more scientific disciplines, we do not exclusively find the political scientists, but also the economists, the sociologists, the constitutional theorists, or the philosophers among represented authors.

The individual authors are sorted by the date of birth. The reader of Štefančík's publication has a view of the several decades lasting development of the German political science. So, the readers find out what topics were important in a particular period. For example, if it was a problem of the constitutional deficiencies of the Weimar Republic in the thirties that results in one the greatest modern catastrophes of the human civilization, even during World War II and shortly thereafter, the topic of the undemocratic regimes was

dominating, in the fifties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was a question of the political education and consolidation of the democracy in terms of the new state. Even at present, he is extraordinarily devoting himself to such topics how the international migration, the populism or the corruption in an intensive manner.

The textbook has an easy structure. At first, Štefančík represents the biography of the selected personality and he is subsequently devoting himself to the themes that were important for the life of the represented personality. The textbook what the author himself stresses in its preface, it does not interpret the views, or even the theories which are associated with the individual German-speaking authors. At the same time, the absence of the deep insight also enabled to represent the research of the politics, the society, the democracy and the like through the eyes as many as 53 authors at 315 pages. So, the student will also find the information about the known authors in Slovakia in the textbook, like for example Hannah Arendt, Otto Kirchheimer, Karl R. Popper, Friedrich August von Hayek, or Joachim Morgenthau. However, the students may also find the basic information about the lesser-known authors in Slovakia, but these are important authors in the German-speaking environment like Wolfgang Abendroth, Arnold Brecht, Winfried Steffani, Ernst-Otto Czempel, Theodor Eschenburg, Carl Joachim Friedrich, Ernst Fraenkel, Franz Neumann, Alexander Rüstow, Frank Brettschneider, or Sieglinde Rosenberger. The enumeration of all represented authors is not ambition of this text, every student, or the young scientist will certainly find a topic in the publication to which he is primarily devoting himself.

In order the reader may orientate in the publication better, at the beginning Štefančík immediately affiliated the individual authors to the selected topics (among other thing, the democracy, the international relations, the corruption, the international migration, the nationalism, the undemocratic regimes, the political parties, the political systems, the populism, or the electoral campaigning). However, this factor can also be perceived as a minor deficiency. As a rule, the scientists devote themselves to a particular topic that is why it would be more consistent if the authors were not ranked according to the year of their birth, but according to the topic to which they were primarily devoting themselves. However, on the other hand, it would have to be chosen the different structure of the publication, and it was not apparently the author's aim. One of the positive aspects of this publication are also the so-called "frames" in which Štefančík explains the expert terms associated with the political systems or modern history of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, among others the motion of no confidence, the Weimar Republic, the Cold War, the détente, the magic formula, the Jamaica-Coalition and other.

It is possible to say at an overall assessment of the represented publication that it is an interesting publication. The difference compared with other

textbooks reposes in the fact that at first Štefančík does not represent the theory and he affiliates the individual authors to it, but he is doing it on the contrary. I. e. he introduces the author and he affiliates the important themes to him that have made progress in the development of the German as well as of the world's political science.

Besides the depiction of the life and of the work of 53 authors from the German-speaking environment, the introductory part of the publication is certainly worth noting as well. At this point, the author represents the political science as a scientific discipline, its subject of the scientific inquiry as well as the methods. However, it is also necessary to direct the attention towards the extraordinarily critical remarks in the preface in which Štefančík evaluates some negative aspects of the Slovak political science.

Although the author is currently acting at the Faculty of Applied Languages of the Economics University in the town of Bratislava, Štefančík extraordinarily enriched the cognition of the Slovak political science community in the field of the political theory by this publication. This publication may act as a repetition of the already recognized facts for the experienced readers, but it is as suitable teaching aid for the lecture on the topic of the political philosophy, or the theory of the politics for the Slovak students as well.

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