

Recenzie

ŠTEFANČÍK, Radoslav (ed.): Pravicový extrémizmus a mládež na Slovensku (The right-wing extremism and youth in Slovakia)

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The questions related to the right-wing extremism have already been in the centre of the research of the experts from the field of the social sciences for several decades. In Slovakia, the research of the right-wing extremism was lagging for a long time. The extremists did not have the great influence in the politics in Slovakia, they did not receive the sufficient support of the society in any type of the elections (the national, regional, or the municipal elections), and the researchers devoted to rather more updated topics in the political science. However, the public opinion polls began to record the gradual growth of the ideas that are typical for the extremist parties. The reason was the sharpening relationship between the Slovak majority and the Romany minority. Therefore it was only the matter of time when the experts from the social sciences begin to devote more to this social problem as well.

After the victory of Marián Kotleba in the regional elections in the town of Banská Bystrica in autumn, the right-wing extremism began to be discussed to a greater extent than before. Such an apprehension has appeared not only among the experts, but also among the laypersons that the success of Marián Kotleba is only the first step in his political rise which finally results in the success in the parliamentary elections.

The increased interest in this topic has naturally reflected not only in the expert, but also in the scientific publications. One of the is the reviewed publication of the author's team under the leadership of Radoslav Štefančík. On the one hand, these are the authors who are not primarily devoting to the right-wing extremism, but on the other hand, at least, they have the opportunity to present this topic in the interdisciplinary perspective. The author's team composed of the political scientists, sociologists, and the experts at the research of the youth has decided that they present the up-to-date research on the topic of the relationship of the youth and the right-wing extremism. We consider the choice of the topic to be correct because according to more public opinion research, it is just the young generation of people who is sympathizing with the ideas of the political parties on the right, or on the left poles of the ideological spectrum. This is just the generation that has not any experience in some from two undemocratic regimes which Slovakia experienced during the 20th century.

As long as we look at the team of the authors, the leader of the authors' team is political scientist Radoslav Štefančík from the Economic University in Bratislava who is primarily devoting the research of the political parties, to the youth organizations of political parties and to the international migration and integration of foreigners. Perhaps, the most experienced author of this team is the sociologist Ladislav Macháček from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in the town of Trnava.

The representatives of the media research and the public opinion, Eva Poláková from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in the town of Trnava and Lucia Spálová from the Constantine Philosopher University in the town of Nitra belong to other authors. The team of the authors is complemented by three authors from the Department of prevention and youth research of the Institute of the information and the prognoses of Education (Marcela Bieliková, Mária Janková, Marianna Pétiová) and Ludovít Šrámek from the Department of research and statistics from the National educational centre. The only author who is primarily engaged in the research with the problems of the extreme right is the postgraduate Alena Kluknavská from the Comenius University in Bratislava.

The structure of the monograph is divided into six chapters. The head of the authors' team, the political scientist Radoslav Štefančík, is beginning the introductory chapter by the presentation of the theoretical part of the political extremism. The chapter offers a general insight into the problems of the defining of the political extremism with the concentration on its right variant. The author characterized the individual aspects of the political extremism, subjects as well as the possibility of the suppression of this phenomenon. He is concurrently noting the relationship between the youth and the political extremism. It is evident in this chapter that the author has chosen the German authors as his initial basis in the defining of the individual concepts. However, this approach need not be always correct as the literature offers more views of the political extremism. Among other, it also offers several such viewpoints which are critically looking at the German view of the defined extremism by the state.

The second chapter of the sociologist Ladislav Macháček with the name "The relationship of the Slovak citizens and the youth to the right extremism" is bringing the quantitative view of the attitudes of the public in the relationship to the right extremism. It is evident that this research implemented before the election success of Marián Kotleba in the Slovak regional elections predicted the success of the right extremists. The aim of quantitative research was to reveal the relationship of the citizens to the authoritarian tendencies and in particular, to the negative stereotypes against the autochthonous as well as against the allochthonous minorities. Precisely, these two aspects form the programme ways out of the extremely right subjects.

The third chapter is called "The discriminatory tendencies of the media presentation of the Romanies and the elements of the extremism in communication on the social network". The authors Eva Poláková and Lucia Spálová are inquiring into the media presentation of the Romanies in the Slovak media. They are concluding that it is inevitably to look for the news reporting behind the negative view of the majority of the Slovak society against the Romanies. The news reporting is stereotypically presenting the Romanies. In addition to the media content, they are also noticing the anti-Romany tempers appearing in the social networks. Today it is surprise for anybody that the social networks are used for the communication with their favourites by the right entities. Inter alia, the Internet acts as the cheap and effective means also to disseminate the opinions that are irreconcilable with the imagination of the democratic management of the public affairs.

The following chapter of the author Alena Kluknavská is called “Focused on the Romanies? The People’s Party – Our Slovakia in the Parliamentary Elections in Slovakia”. IN this chapter, the author is primarily noticing the success of the extremist formation of the People’s Party – Our Slovakia, in particular, in those communities in which the segregated Romany settlement with the socially excluded members of the Romany minority is in the immediate vicinity. On the one hand, it is an interesting fact, on the other hand, the success of Marián Kotleba in the region of Banská Bystrica just confirms the thesis that his party does not exclusively find the sympathizers in the vicinity where the inhabitants are immediately confronted with the everyday experience with the members of the Romany minority. On the contrary, Kotleba also addressed the voters in the vicinity where the Romanies are not living, or they are fully integrated into the society.

The next chapter of three authors from the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic called “The manifestations of intolerance and violence in pupils of the basic and secondary schools in Slovakia presents the results of the research which was inquiring into the problem of the violence and intolerance of the basic schools. This chapter provides the valuable insights into the slopes to the intolerance and violence of young people. The interesting findings were the results in comparison with the relationship to the individual regions. It has been found out in comparison that the young inhabitants of Trnava’s and Nitra’s regions are the most negatively oriented towards the distinct groups. Just these two regions are appearing in the media as problematic. The region of Trnava especially appears in connection with the football hooligans – the sympathizers of the Trnava’s football club; the region of Nitra appears in connection with the assaults of the sympathizers of the movement Skinheads on the visitors of one of the Nitra’s night clubs. In this context, it is possible better to understand the presented reality by the media in both regions. So, the tendencies to the violence in both regions are not the sporadic manifestations of young people, but it is a systematic problem at which it will be inevitable to look more thoroughly.

The last chapter of the author Ľudovít Šrámek named “The attitude of youth towards the manifestations of extremism presents the comparison of the relationship of young people to the individual minorities, subcultures, to the radical and extremist groups in the synchronous comparison in the period of the years 2007, 2009 and 2011. The author of this chapter is pointing out the increase of tolerance to the extreme right-wing opinions and to their representatives and on the contrary, the decrease of tolerance to the individual minorities, in particular, to the Romanies. Like other co-authors, Ľudovít Šrámek has also stated the growth of the anti-Romany settlements in the Slovak society in his chapter as well as the decrease of the sensitivity of the young generation to the potential of the threat from the side of some groups.

The most important missions of this publication is the fact that it complements the theme which is highly current in Slovakia at present. It draws attention to the fact that the political extremism is inherently touching the young generation; therefore the attention of the state should focus just on this generation. It is necessary to ensure by the convenient methods so that the young generation can reveal the dangers of the political extremism on the one hand and on the other hand, so that the young generation may have an embodied sense of the principles of the state of law. As the authors point

out in the end, the theme of the relationship of the political extremism and youth can be examined not only by the quantitative empirical methods, but the attention should also be drawn to the circumstances which can be found out just by means of the just by means of the qualitative procedures. And also for this reason, the following research of the political extremism and young people could be concentrated just on the question in which the essence resides that some young people show greater sympathies with the political extremism and on the contrary, which ones can early reveal the dangers of the political extremism and to keep the distance from it, or even, actively to condemn it.

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