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More Similarities or More Differences in the Sum of All Fears?


Despite retry political assurances about the importance of regional cooperation within the Visegrád Group, its actual functioning does not arouse much interest. This is reflected in very modest number of scientific studies on the V-4. The issue of security of the Visegrád countries is quite a niche area of research (Pawlikowska 2006; 2004; 2003). The reviewed book on the security of the Polish Republic, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Hungary in the constitutional regulations substantially fills the gap in the publishing market. The publication is the result of research carried out in the framework of the International Visegrád Fund grant (project Security in the V4 Constitutions and political practices). A team of researchers Polish, Czech, Slovak and Hungarian was led by Professor Agnieszka Bień-Kacała who is a recognized scholar of constitutional law (Bień-Kacała 2015; 2013). The book features texts of twenty-five authors grouped in seven thematic chapters. One chapter was published in Czech, one Slovak and one more in Hungarian. Another chapter is composed instead of four subsections, each of which was published in one of the four languages of the V-4. In total, Polish-language texts constitute 45 per cent., i.e. 181 pages of the 397-page monograph. As a result of this assumption, the availability of content is quite limited.
In the introduction, the editors of the volume emphasize the essential purpose of the research, which was a summary of the similarities and differences in the legal systems of the four analyzed countries in the region. After reading the monograph arises a legitimate question about the reasons for the differences in the constitutional conceptualization safety category. Explanation of differences, however, would be possible only after deeper analysis of political history and political systems of the four countries surveyed.

In the first chapter M. Serowaniec and W. Włoch considering the concept and types of security by presenting the state of research in the social sciences, including definitions of security and sociological category needs. They also refers, in regard to the safety category, the so-called foundation, paradigms in international relations, adopting a simplified division of realism and liberalism (in its listing within the theory of interdependence, institutionalization, democratic peace, the diffusion of power). It should be mentioned that in the science of international relations, there are other, more complex typologies related paradigms (Ostaszewski, 2008; Czaputowicz 2007; Żukrowska & Grącik 2006; Burchill et al. 2006). First of all make chronological division for classic, modernist and postmodernist and only within them distinguish the individual schools (paradigms). Second, international relations theory assumes the existence of a greater number of paradigms (including globalism / Marxism / structuralism) and more concepts within the paradigms (among others the theory of the world system, rational choice theory, constructivism). In the next section Zbigniew Witkowski indicates the types of security, emphasizing above all conceptualization to measure subjective and objective security (political, military, economic, ecological, social, cultural, ideological) and spatially in the dimension of the external and internal security (pointing to the national security and State security).

The second chapter is the presentation of the European acquis in the area of security. K. Witkowska-Chrzczonowicz discusses security category in the law and practice of functioning of the EU noting that although the Treaty of Lisbon gave some progress in the area of the Common Security and Defence Policy, however, short-sightedness of politicians and the lack of adequate measures mean that the European Union it will be difficult to face threat of ISIS. T. Kacala in a finely written, concise text, examines the concept of security documents of NATO and the Visegrád Group. He writes, among other things, on the importance of military cooperation, including such a valuable initiative groups, such as the Visegrád Battle Group. In turn, A. Kustra has made a reflection on the state security and public safety as a value protected by the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the light of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.
The third chapter undertaken an analysis of the category of safety in the light of the Polish Constitution of the Republic of 2 April 1997. S. Grabowska discusses issues of national security, I. Wróblewska safety of citizens, and K. Karpus raises issues of ecological safety in the Constitution. In the remainder of A. Bięń-Kacala subjected to a comprehensive analysis of safety category Polish Republic. This section is without doubt the most interesting part of the whole book. The author rightly points out that the category of security is an unnamed constitutional principle, there is no any constitutional definition of this concept, which usually appears in the chapter on the rights of the individual, but unfortunately, in the context of their limitation. Professor A. Bien-Kacala also stresses that the lack of comprehensive, constitutional development of the security problem and its constitutional categorization. She adds that although the Constitution distinguishes internal and external security, it is because of the specific nature of contemporary threats (transnational terrorism, the influx of refugees into the Schengen zone), it is difficult to make a precise delimitation between the two types of security. Very right is her thesis that the nature of today’s threats combines external and internal factors. The rest of the chapter on Polish issues is yet two texts. R. Grabowski considering safety against other values protected by the Constitution and at the end of the chapter K. Eckhardt indicates constitutional mechanisms to remove security threats.

Chapter Four (in Czech) written by Vera Jirásková and Jiři Jirásek’s is dedicated to the security of the Czech Republic (Bezpečnost Česke republiky). The fifth chapter (in Slovak) is dedicated to the statutory categories of safety in the Slovak Republic (Ústavne kategórie bezpečnosti – Slovenska republika) and is composed of four authors of the texts. M. Giba take in its analysis of the issue of national security (Bezpečnost statu), L. Cibulka discusses the security of the citizens (Bezpečnost občanov), M. Domin presents the issue of ecological safety (Ekologicka bezpečnost) and M. Hodas considering security and other values protected by law (Bezpečnost a ine hodnoty chranene ústavou).This chapter ends with a text M. Domina of statutory mechanisms aimed at reducing the risks (Ústavne mechanizmy na odstranienie bezpečnostných razík). In the sixth chapter (in Hungarian) Drinoczi T., L. Csink and I. Sabjanics discuss security in the constitutional regulations of Hungary (Abiztonsag alkotmanyjogi szabályozasa Magyarorszagon).

The seventh chapter was devoted to the issues of security categories in the jurisprudence of the constitutional courts of the Visegrád Group countries. A. Domaniska and K. Skotnicki analyze safety in the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Poland, K. Klima does so in relation to the Czech Republic (Bezpečnostni otazky v judikatuře Ústavního soudu Česke republiky), L. Cibulka presents Slovak law (Bezpečnost v judikatúre ústavných súdov – Slovenska republika) and T. Drinoczi,
L. Csink and I. Sabjanics present situation in Hungary (*Alkotmanybirósagi gyakorlat a nemzetbiztonság tagraján*).

The book does not contain a bibliography. At the end it is included only biographical note about the authors. Draws the reader’s attention, unfortunately, a significant number of typographical errors in the text, which indicates a lack of adequate correction of the publisher.

**References:**


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