



## Habilitation Thesis Reviewer's Report

<b>Masaryk University</b>	Faculty of Social Studies
<b>Faculty</b>	Political Science
<b>Procedure field</b>	PhDr. Věra Stojarová, Ph.D.
<b>Applicant</b>	Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University
<b>Applicant's home unit, institution</b>	The Far Right in the Balkans
<b>Habilitation thesis</b>	Prof. PhDr. Lubomír Kopeček, Ph.D.
<b>Reviewer</b>	Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University
<b>Reviewer's home unit, institution</b>	

The book by Věra Stojarová presents a systematic and highly-oriented insight into the far right in the Balkan states. First, I briefly summarize the structure of the book. There is introductory theoretical chapter defining the far right. It is followed by a brief overview of history of this party family in the region and selection of the parties that could be considered in the Balkans as far right, which is based mainly on literature. The next chapter verified whether the selected parties meet or not with the far-right concept of Cas Mudde. The other two chapters analyze different success of the far-right parties. They are followed by the text about voters of these parties and the specific aspects related to the far right (party organizations, close paramilitary groups, access to media etc.).

The great advantage of the author is her ability to work not only with (rare) Western literature on this topic, but also with local sources. Therefore, the book offers a very deep look inside each far-right party. Similarly, the choice of Cas Mudde concept seems very reasonable to me, because its basis (nationalism, xenophobia, law and order and welfare chauvinism) can be tested well. Thanks to this, individual features of Balkans far right parties are not only well documented, but also are understandable through this concept. This option at the same time allows a good comparison of the far right in the Balkans and in the Western Europe. The author was able to summarize in conclusion the main similarities and differences between both areas. If I choose one good example of the similarities, it is proof of the small importance of economic issues for the parties in both areas. The differences and their roots (connected

with history, nation and state building in this part of Europe etc.) are very interesting outputs of the book.

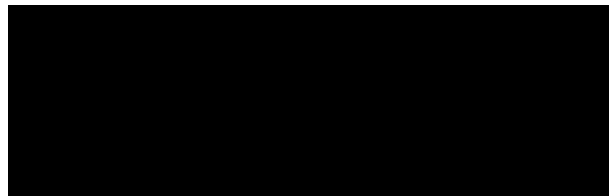
A certain weakness of the text is somewhat difficult orientation in the passages devoted to the position of the some far-right parties in party systems. However, I am not sure, whether this problem is fully solvable. The number of Balkan countries involved in research is high and their politics is often characterized by a high structure changeability.

The other point of my criticism is question of factors which are important for success of individual far right parties. The author provides a detailed description of ethnic wars, majority - minority relations, etc. for each country. However, it is not always a clear line explaining why some of the far right parties are more successful than others. For instance, I did not fully understand why Macedonia, where the far right is completely absent, is so specific in the region?

### **Conclusion**

The book by Věra Stojarová represents a solid piece of scientific work. Author's conclusions provide a good basis for further development of the research of the far right in Balkan region. The text also *fulfils* requirements expected of a habilitation thesis in the field of Political Science.

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Lubomír Kopeček