

RESUME

Attila DABIS

Catalan Autumn

The paper aims to provide an alternative viewpoint of the Catalan independence referendum of 1 October 2017. There appears to be a prevalent interpretation within the political discourse that Catalan independence is a) an internal matter of Spain; b) an unconstitutional endeavour; and c) a process that would ultimately lead Catalonia out of the European Union. The analysis concludes that the excessive use of police violence and the incarceration of democratically elected politicians, as well as of civil society leaders, constitute grave violations of fundamental human rights and civil liberties that fall in the scope of international cooperation. On the issue of constitutional legitimacy, it is clear that the referendum confers democratic legitimacy on the secession initiative, which has to be recognised and properly addressed by the Spanish central government. This is a prerequisite for a reconciliatory dialogue between two legitimate parties and two legitimate constitutional interests. Finally, on the question of Catalonia's relation with the EU, the analysis suggests that instead of a new accession process supported by many international office holders, it would be more plausible to renegotiate membership terms in the framework of a continued membership of Catalonia in the EU.

Balázs VIZI

**Protection of Minorities by Bilateral Agreements:
The Case of the Italian–Croatian and Italian–Slovenian Treaties**

Following the collapse of Yugoslavia, the situation of Italian minorities living in successor states raised great concerns in Italy. This article offers an overview of the evolution of bilateral minority protection instruments between Italy and Croatia, Slovenia respectively. New treaties and initiatives emerged in the 1990s in this regard strongly build on the post-WWII international legal arrangements concerning the situation of minorities. The analysis of the relevant treaty provisions in a broader political and historical context leads to the conclusion that from the 1990s bilateral minority protection agreements rather reflect a political commitment than a set of strict normative obligations.

Szabolcs MÓZES

The 2017 County Election in Slovakia – A Night of Surprises

The aim of this paper is to introduce and analyse the results of the 2017 county-level local elections. The election produced many surprises. For example, the participation of voters was much higher than expected, the winner of the elections became the right-wing opposition, the Smer party lost many important positions, and the radical Marian Kotleba was not able to hold his post as the head of the self-governing Banská Bystrica region. The election reflected the ongoing tendency of strengthening independent candidates. The struggle between Hungarian political forces was won by the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP-SMK), which earned almost four times more seats than the Most-Híd party. However, the Hungarian candidates were mainly successful in the regions with Hungarian ethnic majorities, and in the ethnically mixed regions the level of Hungarian political representation decreased.

Géza TOKÁR

The Latitude of Hungarian Ethnic Politics in Slovakia

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the latitude of ethnic political representation of the Hungarian community in Slovakia from 1989 up to recent political developments. The latitude is measured by three factors: the amount of political power held by representatives of the Hungarian communities, the coalition potential of the parties focusing on ethnic policies, and the political compatibility of the parties representing the Hungarian minority. The Hungarian ethnic parties were involved in Slovak politics from the times of the Velvet Revolution; however, their ability to affect politics and policies was limited by party-specific ethnic agendas and incompatibility with numerous Slovak ethnic parties. In light of recent political events, however, the ideological differences have been reduced and the pragmatic nature of fragmented Slovak party politics opens up new channels for cooperation. Despite the changing political environment, the latitude has been weakening due to the fragmentation of the Hungarian ethnic political elite.

Emese VITA

Future Plans and Motivations of Hungarian Students from Transylvania

The paper focuses on the Hungarian minorities in Transylvania and their educational system at the high school level. More specifically, the analysis covers the motivational factors circumscribing their education. The examined elements in this paper include: the factors that determine student choices for higher education, the resources available when choosing the institution of higher education, and how future plans are structured by level of study and social background. The paper provides an overview regarding the socio-demographic characteristics of the examined population (Hungarian high school students from Transylvania). After that, my main goal is to present the widely varying aspects of higher education plans, the motivational factors that contribute the most when students choose higher educational institutions, and, finally, how all of these choices correlate with social background and the resources available to the students. The empirical part of the paper is based on a secondary data analysis, collected through a representative survey among 1108 Hungarian high school students in Transylvania. The interviews were conducted in 2015.

Dániel GAZSÓ

A Critical Review Regarding Brubaker's Conception of Diaspora

Rogers Brubaker is one of the most influential thinkers in the field of minority and ethnic studies of our time. His article entitled 'The Diaspora' has been cited many times since its first publication in 2005. Twelve years later Claire Alexander revisited it with a critical eye, to which Brubaker immediately responded by again examining his starting points in the definition of diaspora. Both the critique and the response came out in the last issue for the year 2017 of the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. In this paper I provide a review of their discussion with the aim of contributing to future debates about the theoretical and methodological questions of diaspora studies.