Abstracts

Dieter Segert. Dilemmas of the simultaneous transformation of politics and economics in East-Central Europe between 1989 and 2008

The article argues that the postcommunist transition, being a complex economic, political and social transformation, became an important testing ground for the restructuring of the capitalist order. Based on the experience of the East-Central Europe (Hungary, Poland and Czech Republic), the analysis explains the unexpected political instability after the accession of these countries into the EU. The main reason for that is based on a process of alienation between the political classes and the citizenries of these countries, which in turn undermines the functioning of representative democracy.

Antony Todorov. Institutional and cultural coherence or about the relation between political institutions and cultural environment

The article defines the institutional and cultural coherence as a concept for the explanation of the close interaction between politics and cultural environment. This concept is based on the theory of the political culture of Almond and Verba and the development of the concept of social capital by Bourdieu and Putnam. The methodological utility of the concept consists, the article agues, in the possibility to seize the complexity of the interaction between political institutions, political beliefs, practices of citizen's participation and value systems in the modern society.

Petia Georgieva. Reforms in the electoral systems: trends, factors, actors

The article analyses the recent changes in the electoral systems in many countries and compares the political debates about these innovations. There is no one single trend of choosing one or another electoral system, but in most cases, Central and Eastern Europe being a good example, the new laws try to combine majority with proportional representation principles. The main reason for the recent changes in the electoral systems in so many countries lays in the increasing claims of the citizens for most transparent political governance.