
help or help in kind, co-habitation and other strategies.

The articles also touch on several specific and interesting themes and questions. Chiara Saraceno underlines in her introductory discussion the fact that the ageing of societies has also brought changes in how intergenerational relationships are experienced. Namely, vertical inter-generation relations are becoming more numerous than horizontal ones, and parent-child relations are growing longer and can last over 60 years. Therefore, people are finding themselves in completely new forms of intergenerational relationships – due to their longer time span these relationships experience several transformations and what is also new is the experience of co-ageing.

Gunhild Hagestad, for example, emphasises that the ageing of European societies is linked with another process, that is, the feminisation of ageing. Namely, the majority of the elderly are in fact women, which has serious implications for intergenerational relations and the transfer of particular knowledge and experience of men to grandchildren (especially grandsons). Another interesting question put forward is whether the increasing number of older people in society also brings an increasing number of contacts between children and older people. Surprisingly, it seems that the opposite is true as the age segregation of our society is such that these contacts might in fact be decreasing.

The book deals with different top-

ics and aspects of intergenerational solidarity, presenting the complexity and persistence of intergenerational relations, as well as their changes over time. It provides interesting and relevant reading for scholars, students as well as the general public interested in this area and research topics, i.e. solidarity, intergenerational relations, family structures, gerontology, demographic change and social policy.

Simona KUSTEC LIPICER
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Ljubljana

Drago Zajc
Coalition Building in Central Europe: (The case of Germany, Austria, Italy and Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia) an attempt to analyse the last wave of democratisation
Fakulteta za družbene vede,
Ljubljana 2009, pp. 180, 20.10 €
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It would be no overstatement to claim that coalition-building is one of the most elementary and simultaneously decisive processes of a parliamentary democratic political system – being it in everyday law-making? or when interest in this topic is focused on academic-research issues; being it in the pre-, interim, or post-election period of different types of elections. The book *Coalition Building in Central Europe: (the case of*

Germany, Austria, Italy and Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia) an attempt to analyse the last wave of democratisation is the first academic-research monograph publication released in Slovenia to deal directly with the abovementioned salient issues of coalitions. This book review's particular orientation is an assessment of the contextual, namely academic and research, potential this book holds in the sense of local and broader international science-driven abilities to understand, interpret and perhaps also forecast those phenomena of everyday democratic election processes which enable close connections among competitors in an electoral struggle to gain the best result, i.e. predominating political power.

The book is divided into three contextual parts, with the first dealing with various recent academic interpretations of coalitions and the processes connected with their building. This is followed by the core of the book which analyses seven examples of coalitions found in the abovementioned Central European countries, with a concluding synthesis and reflections on the theoretical knowledge and analyses of empirical data provided in the book.

In the introduction, the author first provides insights into already existing fundamental political science knowledge concerning coalitions, especially the processes of forming parliamentary and governmental coalition in the region. In so doing, literature by the foreign as well as Slo-

venian "founding fathers" of coalition theory is applied, encompassing the initial rational choice theories of Neuman and Morgenstern to Riker, Lipset and Rokkan, De Swaan, Bodganor, Budge and Keman, Kitschelt, Strom, Warwick works, as well as the Slovenians Ogriz, Fink Hafner, Krašovec, Brezovšek and the author himself (Zajc). This part of the book brings a description of the various coalition typologies considering indicators of relative party powers (percentage of votes and mandates gained), whereby the author develops a typology that extends between minimal to oversized coalitions. In addition, he also presents other possible indicators for understanding and typologising coalitions that are more generally inter-related with the internal and external rules of coalition-building and go far beyond election results logic. Above all, this includes the contextual potential of possible coalition partners that is evident from coalition agreement documents, partly also from the logic of the allocation of ministerial positions, as well as from more general agreements, rules, negotiations, communication processes (e.g. the political/managerial capacities of various political subjects) of forming and further managing the coalition structure according to the constitutional rules of a particular political system. In the next section of the same chapter the author also emphasises the complexity of the coalition-building process, originating from its formation, negotiations, the distribution of positions, official nominations, coalition imple-

mentation or actual making, possible reformations and final dissolution. The final pages of the chapter focus on the specifics of coalition processes in the Central European area for which the author, referring to older research studies by Müller and Ström pointing to the importance of characteristics of the party system (maturity) and contextual (ideological and/or party position specifics, cleavages). Based on election data and legal jurisdictions the author then describes the selected countries' particularities, dealing with local historical and societal circumstances, the characteristics of constitutional, broader political and parliamentary systems, power relations among the political parties, coalition types and formation processes, stability and the contents of coalition agreements as being decisive for gaining a fully integrated insight into the coalition specifics of each of them.

Devoted to comparative empirical studies of countries concerning the abovementioned contextual aspects, the core of the book reveals one point that is common to all of the analysed Central European cases – the specifics of a country's coalition-building process. Starting with a set of countries that have been exercising the tradition of democracy for centuries now and in this regard also coalition-based processes (with the mean-time severance of pluralist democracy) and continuing with a set of countries that have established a democratic political system in the last two decades (within the

third wave of democratisation), the author confirms the special features of the Central European area and its historical, cultural and political background, which are also seen when coalition-related processes in the area are at stake. Based on an international comparative analysis he arrives at the following conclusions. First, coalition formation processes in the new Central European democracies are following the patterns of the older ones in the area and are based on cleavage patterns (predominantly left-right) among a range of newly established political parties. Second, there is the decisive impact of the election system and the fragmentation of party arenas. Third, coalition formation processes are a general characteristic of broader party behaviour in which minimally connected winning coalitions prevail with some partial exemptions in the "older" democracies. Fourth, the coalition alliances consequently guarantee stability and democratic consolidation, nevertheless very special importance in those processes is also attributed to previous coalition process experiences. Fifth, the interest among governmental coalition parties in cooperating often does not lead to the re-establishment of coalitions in the election mid-term period. Finally, opposition parties also work in some type of coalition when carrying out their control functions over governmental coalition parties. At the end, the author concludes that it is almost impossible to forecast which types of coalitions would be best for the

future, especially because one must consider that the analysed phenomenon takes place in changing political and societal environments that demand adaptations of their elements to these new circumstances. The current modes of political globalisation and the economic crisis are given special mention.

The author's decision to analyse the phenomenon of party coalitions from a wider, more dynamic perspective which moves beyond the classical institutional framework approach to coalition analysis seems to be very good at providing new dimensions and interpretations of the analysed contents. It helps show that the role of a coalition is not self-sufficiently and self-evidently connected only with issues of political victory, but from various standpoints in each democratic environment it is a highly responsible "mission". The prevailing approach to analysing the phenomenon of coalitions should in this regard probably remain related to the general institutional aspect of coalition-making and its impacts on general societal and political well-being and prosperity, while it relates to the patterns of mutual connections between the government and parliamentary powers, as well as coalition openness to the society's inputs (e.g. its governance potential). The second important standpoint also presented in the book that is a necessary element of coalition analysis is a narrower focus on the micro or internal level of coalition management processes that can, despite not being publicly

visible, decisively influence future coalition-making – whether in the relationships among coalition partners, other state institutions, citizens or the international political community. The third key aspect of the coalition analysis that generally seems to be the weakest part of coalition studies (including the parts in this book) can be related to the question of trust and values-driven responsibility of a coalition to implement electoral promises on whose basis voters decided to confer their power into the hands of the elected candidates. Following these last remarks we see the following future potential of scientific research approaches to coalition studies: 1) the structural one – relating to the more precise and clear distinction between the forms and types of coalitions regarding the types and specifics of elections and coalition institutionalisation modes (governmental, parliamentary, ministerial etc.); 2) the process one – relating to the specifics of relevant processes of a coalition's life cycle in different time periods, meaning that a clearer distinction should be made between each phase of the coalition-making process that varies significantly among themselves according to the process specifics and types of coalition-making; 3) the methodological one – regarding the introduction of more comprehensive indicators adapted to the researched specifics for measuring coalition specifics (in the case of analysing policy potential a clear set of policy-relevant specifics should be established, not being satisfied only

with the traditional “evergreen” left-right cleavage typologisation whose very usefulness is questionable in current party and politico-ideological circumstances); 4) the system related one – that which includes the environmental and wider set of relevant input-output characteristics of a coalition and its processes, including the mentioned value and trust aspects in area-specific circumstances, the role of political campaigns for explaining coalition behaviour etc.

Although finishing this review with more general remarks on past, existing and possible future topics concerning coalitions, it can be stated without doubt that for all of the abovementioned reasons the reviewed book is a valuable and welcome academic contribution to Slovenian scientific and other interested publics.

Eva BATISTA

Božidar Jezernik (ed.)
Imagining ‘the Turk’
 Cambridge Scholars Publishing,
 Newcastle 2010, pp. 205, £39.99
 (ISBN 1-4438-1663-9)

Theorization of the relationship between East and West has especially since the 1980s, with the initiation of the post-colonial studies, been developing as a prominent thematic in all fields of arts and human sciences. The primary source of the postcolonial studies has been Edward Said’s

Orientalism, dealing with the vastness of the Orient-Occident dichotomy, and thus the Othering process. Identity formation is embedded in the dialectic relationship between positive and negative imagery. Positive features of our culture are chosen to depict our self-image, whilst the image of the others is defined by the least attractive elements of their culture. The recently published volume *Imagining ‘the Turk,’* edited by Božidar Jezernik, is dealing with the dynamics of the Othering process by exploring the relation between the West and the Ottomans. It offers the understanding of the European past in relation to the Ottoman Empire. This version of the past, which is selectively constructed, is based on the notion of exclusion and reflects on the political conditions, which enabled it. The image of ‘the Turk,’ as a ruthless plunderer, and the past to which it is related, is the one which is non-European, it is the negative side of the European self-image. This image proves to be still very much alive in the European collective consciousness. By creating images, discourses and texts, the West appropriated ‘the Turks,’ thus fixing and framing the Others through essentialism. This concept was one of the key founding elements of the European or Western cultural identity.

The volume is composed of fourteen papers, which are dealing with thematically diverse topics, covering different areas and time periods. The papers are nevertheless intertwined with the prevailing themes: the Oth-