

Olena Novakova, ScD in political science

National Pedagogical Dragomanov University, Kyiv, Ukraine

CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON THE WAY TO MODERN SYSTEM OF POWER: EXPERIENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT¹

The urgent need of Ukrainian society is formation of a new governmental system able adequately to meet all challenges of current domestic and global level with simultaneous observance of democratic format and European model of ruling. That is why European experience of national political systems is a certain model of construction of power relations in society, which Ukraine seeks. The greatest interest for Ukraine is a group of countries called the "young democracies", the EU-28 countries, which form a geographically separate region – the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that joined the European Union after the collapse of the soviet, communist ideology and the collapse of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

The crystallization of this region as a separate subject of political research is characterized by the lack of unity concerning quantitative determination of countries within it. Different approaches are proposed: inclusion to this group of all countries that are geographically belong to Central and Eastern Europe, or inclusion to this group exclusively young democracies as part of the EU-28. By working within this monographic study, the author as the subject of analysis choose a group of countries that are members of the EU but were not part of the Soviet Union, what excludes Baltic countries from the circle of scientific research.

Thus, the subject of scientific reflection is group of countries – young democracies in the EU, which geographically form a region of Central (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland) and Eastern Europe (Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria and others.).

We should support the author's thesis that the experience of these countries is beneficial for Ukraine because the countries of Central Europe, which within the CEE region formed their own subregional geopolitical unity – Visegrad Group (V4), is considered as one of the most successful development of national systems of power; and the experience of Romania and Bulgaria is mentally quite close to the Ukrainian society, besides political processes taking place in these countries have much in common with Ukrainian realities. Slovenia has experience of successful reforms in the administrative and territorial management, lustration and fight against corruption, which are recognized as the most effective within CEE group of countries; and the experience of Croatia is useful for Ukraine in view of the fact that this country acquired the status of EU member in 2013 year.

At the same time, it should be noted that the research of Y. Maslov is focused on identifying of common trends, mechanisms, policies and factors that contributed as well as obstructed quality and rapid formation of new power systems in Central and Eastern Europe, but not on a comparative analysis of power systems in the region, although the tools of comparative approach were used for the entire study.

The first chapter of the monograph analyses theoretical and methodological foundations for studying the phenomenon of power in modern social and political researches; the author draws attention to the shift in study and interpretation of the category of "power". There is a transition to the next qualitatively new level, to the method of reproduction of power schematism focused on the technical side of power execution in society. Schematism of power in this sense is realized as a certain defined configuration that provides a certain way for interaction of power transcendences, elites, places of presence and people.

In this aspect, according to the researcher's point, the state is only one of power instances, which has quite certain exceptional resource (common procedure and uniformity of procedures at all territory) and only one, which does not substitute other instance. The current government is in a state of change of its configuration resulted by three processes: the integration of trust networks, isolation of categorical inequality and elimination of independent power centers which use violence and coercion.

This approach for understand of power allows Y. Maslov to reach the concept of "systemacy" of

¹ Review of the monograph: Маслов, Ю.К. (2015). *Країни Центральної та Східної Європи в пошуках нової системи влади*. Одеса: Видавничий дім «Гельветика»

power and identify such components of a modern system of public authorities in the countries of democratic way of governance, as state power and local government power, which in majority of world constitutions, have the power to rule people of these countries.

In the second chapter, the author focuses on political and legal principles of construction and operation of power system in European countries. Y. Maslov considers the principles of separation of powers, principle of decentralization, subsidiarity and solidarity, thoroughly stopping at analysis of evolution of these principles and degree of its enforcement at the legislative level in Central and Eastern Europe.

The author devotes the third chapter to analysis of renovation of power configuration in the region, and carefully studies key institutions of central government, namely the parliamentary institution, the presidency, government and independent judiciary. The authors prove that the success of the region countries is based on proven political practices of leading countries of the world, in particular on theoretical developments concerning effective state building and government in democratic societies. These include scientific foundations of the theory of separation of powers, parliamentary theory, theory of democracy, rule of law and so on.

In addition, Y. Maslov determines that the process of formation of national governmental systems is greatly influenced by external factors, which include the European requirements on institutional design of political systems of the Old World which had to be introduced as mandatory condition of membership in the EU countries. These requirements are called the Copenhagen articles and embody the requirements for practical implementation of separation of powers, a transparent system of checks and balances to guarantee the rule of law and protect the rights and freedoms of citizens in each of the candidate countries for accession to the EU.

We support the author's idea that the most significant influence on formation of new power systems in the region was observed in parliamentarism, which in mentioned countries developed in parallel with the power system itself and the success of all political transformations in national political systems depended on parliamentarism. In particular, this study has established a direct link between the success of transformational changes in the state and parliamentary statement. Those countries, where parliamentary models of government were established, have been more successful to establish contacts with governments, which were largely coalition. In addition, the following countries were successful in lustration process and in the fight against corruption.

The fourth chapter of the research Y. Maslov dedicates to analysis of modern local government system and elaborates the analysis of modern dimension of "local government" and its definition as an institution of public authorities, not only political institution.

Significant attention in the fourth chapter is given to study the role of administrative and municipal reforms, which, on author's opinion, appear as a mechanism of formation of effective local self-government as a leading actor of modern power systems in Central and Eastern Europe.

Of course, experience accumulated on the way of formation of new power systems in Central and Eastern Europe was different in each country, had its own inherent qualities. However, the standards and requirements for new configuration of power, the mechanisms of their implementation and institutionalization in this group of countries were common. Therefore, experience of countries which are successful in accession to the European Union is essential for scientific analysis in Ukraine.

Y. Maslov in conclusions to monograph rightly draws attention to the fact that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have not stopped the development of national power systems; they continue to improve it with consideration of all shortcomings, omissions and other processes to form an effective and efficient system of power in society that can provide a high standard of living and strengthen national economies.