

POLITICAL CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA AS A BASIS OF THE STABILITY OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

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Abstract: *The definition of culture, as well as the notion of political culture and its influence, has a broad interpretation. Especially since culture is considered to be a general concept that represents a set of individuals' behaviors, a set of moral principles, customs, and actions in one community. From a different perspective, it can be interpreted differently, but, as a political culture, it represents a set of all that can affect political institutions and institutions and give synergy between decision-makers and citizens. In this paper will be analyzed the cultural development of the states of Serbia as well as the vital factors that create a picture of the political culture of a state.*

Keywords: *culture, politics, states, stability, political culture.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The cross-section of the state of culture and its impact in society can be obtained by monitoring various data, such as the existence of the Ombudsperson, active and registered civil society organizations, the existence of cultural institutions, cinemas, theaters, radio and television stations, libraries, all those institutions which can enable citizens to declare their right, to apply democracy to action in society, to have a certain activity and to act on the political system. Also, the interpretation of the nation itself and the programs broadcast in the media can give an image of the interest and information of the citizens, which implies their participation in the political life. The level of education of the nation, as well as investment in science and research, has a lot to do with culture. Interpretation of different factors can lead to a cross-cutting of a society in one country from the aspect of culture. Society in the modern age, strives for democracy, which marks the full participation of citizens in decision making and the creation of a political system. Culture has a direct connection with all parameters both economically and socially. A high economic and social standard would mean that citizens have an umbrella institution dealing with the field of culture, as well as material and other possibilities to be consumers of cultural content.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

In the case of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Culture and Information³, whose scope of work is: „Development and promotion of culture and artistic creativity; monitoring and research in the field of culture; providing a material basis for cultural activities; development and improvement of literary, translation, music and stage creativity, fine arts and applied arts and design,

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³ <http://www.kultura.gov.rs/cyr/ministry> The Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia, as a state administration body, has been educated and its scope is established by Article 15 of the Law on Ministries („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia” No. 72/12 and 76/13), date of accession: 06/12/2019. at 11.48 am

film and creativity in the field of other audio-visual media; protection of immovable, movable and non-material cultural heritage; library, publishing, cinematographic and music-scenic activity; endowments and foundations; public information system; monitoring the implementation of laws in the field of public information; monitoring the work of public companies and institutions in the field of public information; monitoring activities of foreign information institutions, foreign media, correspondents and correspondents in the Republic of Serbia; informing national minorities; registration of foreign information institutions and providing assistance to foreign journalists and correspondents; cooperation in the field of protection of cultural heritage, cultural creativity and information in the language and script of members of the Serbian people in the region; establishment and development of cultural-information centers abroad; creation of conditions for access and realization of projects financed from the funds of the pre-accession funds of the European Union, donations and other forms of development assistance within the competence of that ministry, participation in regional projects, as well as other tasks determined by law“⁴, exists as an organ dealing with culture and information. Also, the position and scope of activities of the institution of the Ombudsman is defined by Constitution of Republic of Serbia⁵, and by the Law on the Protector of Citizens⁶, which among other things: „... is to permanently affect the respect of human freedoms and rights by the personal authority and reputation of the institution.“⁷ It is important to note that the Republic of Serbia has developed a system of support for civil society organizations, especially through the existence of the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, established by the Regulation on the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society⁸ whose main goal is to support the development of cooperation between civil society organizations and government institutions, also: „...The importance and role of the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society is reflected in the coordination of cooperation between Government institutions and civil society organizations in the process of creating and establishing clear standards and procedures for involving civil society organizations at all levels of the decision-making process.“⁹ Also, by definition: „Civil society is a political force that operates outside the institutions of the system, but with a clear goal of influencing public policies and in the direction of greater transparency, accountability and openness of the system towards citizens. Civil society is a type of social action that occupies space between the state, the economy, and the private sphere. The complex meaning and complex use of the term stems from the many roles of civil society organizations in social life, some of which are the most important: the development of a culture of civic activism and participation in social and public policies; putting pressure on institutions in order to represent the interests of different groups; development of philanthropy, philanthropic values and principles through the activities of associations and other civil society organizations in working with marginalized social groups.“¹⁰ Organisations of the civil society, are practically the best example of the influence of culture on the political system and the development of the political system: „The number of

⁴ <http://www.kultura.gov.rs/cyt/ministarstvo> Министарство културе и информисања Републике Србије, О министарству, датум приступа: 12.06.2019. године, у 12.00 часова.

⁵ Устав Републике Србије, («Сл. гласник РС», бр. 98/2006) available online: http://paragraf.rs/propisi/ustav_republike_srbije.html датум приступа 12.03.14.10 часова.

⁶ Закон о заштитнику грађана («Сл. гласник РС», бр. 79/2005 и 54/2007). Available online: http://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_zastitniku_gradjana.html датум приступа: 12.06.2019. године, у 13.07 часова.

⁷ <http://www.ombudsman.rs/index.php/o-nama/uloga-i-funkcija> Омбудсман / О нама / Улога и функција, датум приступа 12.06.2019. године 13.05 часова.

⁸ Decree on the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society (Official Gazette 26/10).

⁹ <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/> Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, date of accession: 06/12/2019. at 13.27 PM.

¹⁰ <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs>. Office for Cooperation for Civil society/ Info Service / Civil Society, Date of Access: 13.06.2019th, at 15. 05 PM.

registered organizations, their active role in the process of policy making and the influence on the structures of government are directly related to the degree of democratization in society and the level of transparency of the institutions of the system.¹¹

3. PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN THE CREATION OF POLITICAL CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

It can rightly be said that the Republic of Serbia is moving rapidly towards the full participation of citizens, i.e., by setting up and training mechanisms that enable citizens to influence the political system from the aspect of culture. If we stop here with the interpretation of only some of the regulations guaranteeing the freedom of association, as well as the bodies present for the application of culture and information in practice, it is worthwhile mentioning certain statistical data, which will in the next chapters for other countries give a cross-section of the state of existence those institutions that are within the competence of the state, direct implementation in practice, through the number of registered and active civil society organizations, as well as the number of cinemas, theaters, radio and TV stations and libraries. According to the available data, it can be concluded that in the regulations of the Republic of Serbia, there is justification for providing support to citizens, the application of culture, political culture, while the available data provides a guideline that more and more work should always be done and in the next years the authorities and institutions of government need to apply scope of work more practice and citizens to enable greater participation and thereby enable a stronger and more powerful cultural influence on the political system. In the Republic of Serbia, civil society organizations make a total of 24,216 registered according to the data of the CSO Sustainability Index 2014. Serbia 18th edition - May 2015.¹² According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, there are 121 cinemas¹³, theaters¹⁴, of which professional 29, amateur 47 and children's 13, radio and TV stations 251¹⁵, libraries altogether - 2694.¹⁶

4. CONCLUSION

On the basis of the conducted research, the following conclusions came to light: After a quarter of a century, the political culture of the Republic of Serbia was not sufficiently developed to be characterized by the creation of strong political institutions and a stable political system. They have similar internal and external problems with which they are not successful. The Republic of Serbia is under the strong influence of the international factor. Political stability of all three branches of government is not guaranteed by strong institutions, but by the „political elite” that leads the state, which is a serious socio-political anomaly of modern society. Economic independence is absent everywhere where the impact of the adoption of economic strategic annual plans is not carried out by the home state, but it is necessary to consult and comply with the regulations of international institutions (IMF example); social stability of the republic is closely

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² http://www.mc.rs/upload/documents/saopstenja_izvestaji/2015/indeks-odrzivosti-ocd-2014-izvestaj.pdf USAID, SUSTAINABILITY INDEX OF OCD 2014. SERBIA 18. EDITION - MAJ 2015 page 5, date of accession: 14.06.2019. at 16.45.

¹³ Republic of Serbia, Statistical Office: <http://www.stat.gov.rs/> date of accession: 06/15/2019. year, at 5:08 pm.

¹⁴ Republic of Serbia, Statistical Office: <http://webzrzs.stat.gov.rs/>, date of access: 15.06.2019. year, y 17:15 PM.

¹⁵ Republic of Serbia, Statistical Office: <http://www.stat.gov.rs/> date of access: 16.06.2019. year, y 14.56 PM.

¹⁶ Republic of Serbia, Statistical Office: <http://webzrzs.stat.gov.rs/>, date of access: 17.06.2019. year, y 18.22 PM.

related to political events and economic trends; it is realistic to expect a different picture than the one shown by the conducted research. In the end, the culture of one nation, one state is the face of these people, both in front of the citizens, institutions, authorities that exercise power, politicians, politicians, foreigners and international factors. The culture of one nation is an integral part of the identity of that nation, it is the core of which is left-wing or right-wing ideology (for example, the French bourgeois revolution, the Spanish civil war, etc.). The results of the research that have been obtained in this paper show a low level of development of political culture, although only the factors that are most compact and most commonly used in such types of research are taken as indicators. It is only if we were to talk about the educational mobility of young people or the degree of participation of young people (under the age of thirty) in the political life of the state, we would realize how much is still needed for the political system of the Republic of Serbia to develop, because it is the essence of national progress - investment in science.

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