



Book Review

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Political Parties, Elections and Election Systems

by Etem Aziri

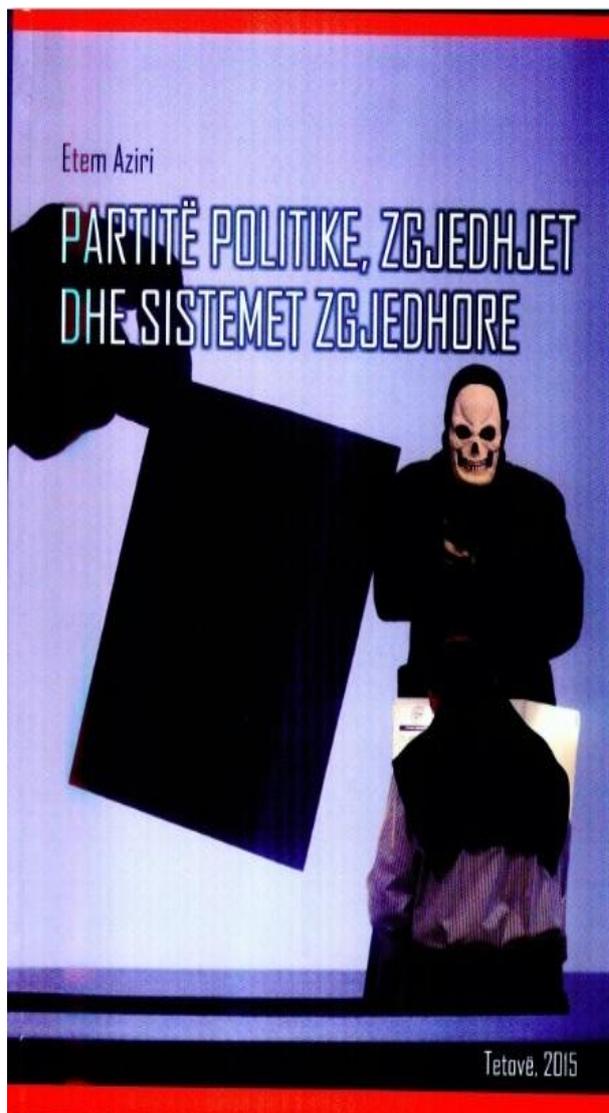
Skopje, 2015

144 pages

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"Political Parties, Elections and Election Systems" is the third book of Professor Etem Aziri, whose focus is the treatment of political parties as a global phenomenon. In 2004 he published the book "Political parties and democracy", while two years later did "Sociology of political parties". This book differs from the first two in two very important segments, which they are, advanced theoretical and scientific maturity of the author and his tendency to include in one book three key elements of the political system and democratic order as political parties, elections and electoral systems. The author has been aware since the beginning of its work to tackle the complexity of the subject matter, but always motivated and driven by a clear lack of basis in Albanian literature of this matter.

Professor Etem Aziri starts from the existence of a link between the global and local science. As a link, according to him, will serve to local authors and researchers themselves, who will disclose to the Albanian researchers, students, political elites and the Albanian electorate in general, in plain language and understandable, a valuable base knowledge about this matter. In other words, the main motive of the author has been and remains adaptation of "world science" to the reader of the Albanian political environment. According to the author, the connoisseurs of a problem write simply and clearly, and above all to the needs of readers of their country. For this reason it is not surprising that the author has preferred to use the comparative method during his research, reflecting thus clear and lucid that what happened in societies with advanced pluralist democracy and in the Republic of Macedonia, which is still suffering the consequences of a challenging transition.



The author treats political parties as institutions and entities of the functioning of the democratic order. He emphasizes the fact that the competition between the political parties built the rules of political pluralism and parliamentary life, noting each time that political and party pluralism in the country has experienced a discontinuity of more than 50 years.

He describes his scientific-theoretical as a modest contribution and as a guide for young researchers who wish to deepen with their long scientific research, contributing to the development of the discipline of political science in all Albanian territories. So this book, among other things intended them to "pave the way" for young researchers to move fast in finding decisive factors in favor of the political system as a whole.

The author based on the statements of Mojsija Ostrogorski borrowed from Dalmoni said: "I hope that this book is not like any political party, but serve as awareness for ordinary voters that becomes aware of the fact that the real power policy belongs to them and they have been carrying only of state sovereignty in the sense of the word demos".

When author examines political parties, elections and the electoral system of the Republic of Macedonia, he is careful not to become an "arbitrator" and to fall "prey" of daily political trap. This does not mean that he does not maintain a critical attitude towards certain phenomena related to the issues addressed in this book. Rather, the author thinks that public opinion and experts have the task seriously to follow the political streams that passes through the country, but stressing that the exclusive rights for all the activities of the political parties in all aspects belongs to political party members, supporters and the voters. Development of transparent elections, democratic and reflect the maturity of a competitive political system reflecting thus its real character.

I share the view that Professor Etem Aziri has handed to present to the readers a cross-disciplinary study in very serious manner. The author has managed to break down in a scientific manner the phenomenon of political parties, since features up to their evolution, classification, organizational structure, types and their internal functioning. With this regard, the author notes quite professionally elements of contemporary parties, elections types of strains and types of electoral systems.

Professor Etem Aziri uses sustainable criteria for characterization of political parties and electoral systems, classifying them by distinguishing attributes, methods of political action and other assessment criteria. He analyzes the phenomenology of political parties and democratic elections and to the electoral systems, taken apart and expose the differences between them. Classification of political parties according to the author, can be based on different criteria ranging from philosophy and political, to the political programs of up to parliamentary action, while classification of electoral systems can be done according to the rules of the establishment (majority system) and according to the results of elections (proportional system).

A special importance in the book is the fact that the author pays attention to the internal organization of political parties as key factors in assessing the level of democracy of a respective political party. In the given case he explains the functioning of political parties, the process of decision-making, decision-making reports, as well as other factors indicative of the advancing of the democratic functioning of political parties.

Professor Etem Aziri has made solid efforts to identify the problems of political pluralism in the country and draw consistent conclusions on the implementation of many problems in this country having recorded the fact of multi-party character of the country. He transmits to the reader a historical appearance of political parties during the 90s and beyond, leaving aside normative and practical aspects of electoral systems applied in the country, as well as the reflection of the electoral system on the political system in general.

The author in this book examines in particular the political action of the Albanian political parties in Macedonia, arguing that their development is still in an embryonic stage, without a stable performance. He also states that Albanian political parties in Macedonia have not managed to consolidate internal party democracy, having recorded that they are giving more priority to strengthening the personality of the party leader and his political vision. Due to inter-ethnic tensions, which escalated to armed conflict in the country, political parties have not yet closed their process of political profiling and setting clear political programs. In this regard, the author has reflected practical examples functioning of political parties in Macedonia and based on them, has grown to draw scientific conclusions.

The book "Political Parties, Elections and Election Systems" reflects the outstanding scientific contributions to the study of phenomenology of political parties and their role in a democracy, and the role of electoral systems in the construction of types of party systems. I am sure that this book will enrich Albanian political literature and will awaken the curiosity of young researchers to deal with other aspects related to this issue.

This book will be welcomed by students, young researchers, and to the members of the party elites, but also to the general public. Although the author's ambitions are modest, to my conviction is that this book will be welcome in all geographic areas inhabited by Albanian population.

Although this book is not the first of its kind for the author, he has always proven to be a prolific researcher, with special skills to use scientific sources, scientific methodology, usage of understandable language and in same time has shown a great commitment to the scientific study of the phenomenon of political party and their variables in the political environment of the Republic of Macedonia.