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**About Security, Democratic Consolidation  
and Good Governance. Romania within  
European Context**

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## About Security, Democratic Consolidation and Good Governance. Romania within European Context

Book Review for the volume *Despre securitate, consolidare democratica si buna guvernare: Romania in context regional*, author Ciprian Iftimoaei, Lumen Media Publishing, Iasi, Romania

George POEDE<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

*More than a decade has passed since the tragic events that took place in America in the dramatic day of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. For the first time since the end of the second World War, the United States were being attacked on their own territory, without prior notice, by a non-state military force which was globally organised, for religious and ideological reasons. The terrorist attacks planned and executed by the terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda on American military and civilian targets have reconfigured the international security environment. The author remarks that the security of the European continent is inextricably linked to what happens outside its external borders. Transnational organized crime, illegal human trafficking, illegal migration, traffic of drug, weapons, ammunition and portable vectors, the proliferation of illegal trade of radioactive and other "sensible" technologies, the expansion of terrorist networks – they all represent threats to the Eastern border of Romania and concern the security of the EU Eastern neighbourhood.*

**Keywords:** *security, democratic consolidation, good governance, book review.*

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This book written by Ciprian Iftimoaei brings together a number of studies and articles made during the author's postgraduate specialization programs followed in the period of 2005-2015. The first two chapters are dedicated to security of the Wider Black Sea Region and to the security of the Eastern border of Romania. The Chapter III –*Towards a comparative analysis of democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe* – was presented as an independent paper on the occasion of scientific sessions and published in collective volumes. The chapter on regionalization process of Romania was inspired by the controversy expressed by political and opinion leaders of public institutions targeted the (in) direct from certain reorganizations and restructurings administrative, trade unions, employers and the author's reflections during public functions exercised as prefect and deputy-prefect of Vaslui county (2007-2012), the government inspector at the General Secretariat of Iasi County delegated to act as falling within the purview of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Welfare (2012-2013). The last chapter discusses about the emergence of the concept of good governance from a sociological perspective, aiming to highlight the differences and similarities of international donor community (IDC) versus academia, by looking at the methods and techniques used to assess the performances of the developing countries.

More than a decade has passed since the tragic events that took place in America in the dramatic day of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2001. For the first time since the end of the second World War, the United States were being attacked on their own territory, without prior notice, by a non-state military force which was globally organised, for religious and ideological reasons. The terrorist attacks planned and executed by the terrorist organisation Al-Qaeda on American military and civilian targets have reconfigured the international security environment. The author remarks that the security of the European continent is inextricably linked to what happens outside its external borders. Transnational organized crime, illegal human trafficking, illegal migration, traffic of drug, weapons, ammunition and portable vectors, the proliferation of illegal trade of radioactive and other "sensible" technologies, the expansion of terrorist networks – they all represent threats to the Eastern border of Romania and concern the security of the EU Eastern neighbourhood. The new external border of the EU will have to face an increasing flow of illegal labour force and other forms of human trafficking. An important part of the illegal immigration in the EU comes from this region.

If the collapse of communism in Central and Eastern European countries under the tutelage of Moscow received some simultaneity due production chain anti-communist revolution of 1989, the same thing cannot be said about the process of democratic transition and consolidation of democracy. The transition from communism to democracy has been influenced by many factors, conditions and characteristics of each ex-communist country that have impregnated one direction and pace of political and economic reforms. Similarly, things happen with the consolidation of democracy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Post-Communist countries experienced practice of democratic regimes often alternating with authoritarian and dictatorial regimes in the period between the two world wars. With this alternation between democracy and authoritarianism or a mix of the two regimes characteristics (under "semi-democratic" or "semi-authoritarian"), none of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe has not enjoyed the benefits of democracy sufficiently strengthened. According to the author, Romania's democratic consolidation is a process that has been underway accounted for both progress and setbacks in terms of institutionalization and practice of democracy, infirm the validity and stability of the rules of the democratic game.

Regionalization is a process of administrative decentralization and territorial reorganization of a state in which the administrative-territorial rearranges the geographically with new projects on infrastructure, population distribution and economic activities for sustainable economic development while reducing disparities of old forms of organization and newly created regions. The regionalization of Romania is based on a political project to achieve its objectives, it needs not only a substantial parliamentary majority, but also a consensually approach between political elites, civil society and citizens. In this chapter, Ciprian Iftimoaei proposes a political approach based on a political analysis of the regionalization in Romania, describing the political component of this process, reporting it to the Central and Eastern European experiences, identifying the positions of the main political actors and, according to them, how to set up a political decision that will redraw the map of administrative division of the country.

According to the World Bank, good governance is defined as the capacity of the government to manage a nation's affaires, to provide economic development and welfare for citizens. IMF focuses on macro-economic and financial stability, expenditure control, budget management, revenue control. The UNDP's emphasis is on participation and involvement of citizens in public policymaking process, reducing poverty, respect for

human rights, and social protection for poor. Unlike the IDC's approach and being inspired by Max Weber sociological writings, the academic approach of good governance is interesting about the implementing public policies through the exercise of power by political elites that decides what decision can be taken in a certain context. In addition, this chapter offers a comparative approach of good governance based on World Bank's Methodology with a focus on Romania after the admission to the European Union.

### References

Iftimoaei, C. (2015). *Despre securitate, consolidare democratica si buna guvernare: Romania in context regional*. Iasi: Lumen Publishing House.