

ABSTRACTS

Aida Zsófia MOUSA

Between Hell and High Water: Israelization and Palestinization in the Palestinian Arab Society in Israel in Light of the 2018 Basic Law on the Nation-state

The aim of this study is to provide an analysis of the situation concerning the Arab minority, constituting twenty-one percent of the state of Israel in the context of the Israeli Nation-State Law adopted by the Knesset in the summer of 2018 and, notably, the unprecedented violent events that occurred between Jews and Arabs within Israel in the spring of 2021. The goal is to offer a detailed insight into the most significant political decisions, noteworthy social processes, and their historical context concerning the Israeli Arab sector from 1948 until the end of 2022. Considering this broad historical period, five partially distinguishable eras are examined in the context of Israeli Arab policy. Particular attention is given to the unique situation, which I describe as being “caught between two fires”, in which the group’s position is most definitively defined, both in terms of their relationship with the Israeli Jewish majority and their relations with the surrounding Palestinian Arabs, from the establishment of the State of Israel to the present day. In light of these considerations, focusing on the Arab sector, we can gain a unique interpretation of the turbulent and significant Israeli societal and political changes from 2018 to 2022, viewed from various perspectives. In this paper, through examination of primary and secondary sources, I conclude that within the above-detailed framework, identity-shaping processes of Israelization and Palestinization, are observable within this community. These processes are present across different historical periods, with constantly changing dynamics, while Israeli government policies are often influenced by and react to these developments.

Andrea MIKLÓSNÉ ZAKAR

**Regionalisation Models and Plans in Romania
from the Political transition to Present Days**

Romania's regionalisation process has been in the focus of political and professional debates for decades. The current regionalisation model burdened with numerous flaws, yet the discourses and controversies so far have not led to any meaningful reforms. This study aims to present the current regionalisation model, on the one hand, and the alternative solutions proposed by Romanian political actors, Hungarian interest groups in Transylvania and professional organisations, on the other. The study also points out that the Hungarian plans and models also include ethno-regionalist aspects, while the Romanian models continue the tradition of centralised state-building.

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Tamás SZÓNYEGI

**The Hungarian National Council of Serbia
- Cultural Autonomy in Practice**

The National Council of the Hungarian Ethnic Minority (MNT – Magyar Nemzeti Tanács in Hungarian) in Serbia is an autonomous institution of the autochthonous Hungarian ethnic community of the country. The creation of the MNT was facilitated by the inclusive legal and social climate in Serbia during the 2000s, and the commitment of the Hungarian minority has since played a pivotal role in its subsequent achievements. This paper provides an overview of the pertinent legal context and the significance of this institution in the Hungarian community. In doing so, the study acknowledges the scarcity of existing literature in this field. Consequently, we supplement our analysis with insights from a recent interview conducted with key figures from the MNT.

Jerzy GORZELIK

Upper Silesia and Upper Silesians – An Introduction to an Unknown Region and Identity of Poland

The paper presents the aspirations of the Silesian movement, active in Upper Silesia, a region in southern Poland (only a small part of which is located in the Czech Republic). Upper Silesian organisations, which have emerged since the fall of communist rule, have developed a political agenda in recent decades that includes demands for a change in the region's status and for those inhabitants who identify themselves as (Upper) Silesians. This agenda is centred around two strategic goals: territorial and cultural autonomy.

Despite its political successes – in the 2010 and 2014 elections, the Silesian Autonomy Movement (*Ruch Autonomii Śląska*) won seats in the Regional Assembly (*Sejmik*) of the Silesian Voivodeship and co-founded the provincial government – the Silesian movement has so far failed to achieve either of these goals. The Silesians, who, according to the results of the national censuses, constitute the largest distinct ethnic group in Poland, were not included in the Law on National and Ethnic Minorities of 2005. Several bills to recognise Silesian as a regional language have also been rejected.

Although the Silesian movement has been in a political crisis since 2018, when it failed to gain seats in the regional assembly, almost all opposition parties have pledged to recognise the Silesian language, and some of them also the Silesian ethnic minority in the run-up to the parliamentary elections of 15 October 2023. In contrast, the topic of regional autonomy was not included in the election programmes of the main political forces. These declarations by representatives of nationwide parties result from the consistent work of Silesian organisations, which have succeeded in winning part of the public opinion for their demands. Even so, the Silesian movement needs new impulses. One such may be the case of the Association of People of Silesian Nationality (*Stowarzyszenie Osób Narodowości Śląskiej*), which has been refused registration by Polish courts, a case which is currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

Emese MEZEI

**Book Review – Thomas Benedikter: 100 Years
of Modern Territorial Autonomy**

Benedikter's book "*100 Years of Modern Territorial Autonomy – Autonomy Around the World: Background, Assessments, Experiences*. Zürich: LIT. 2021" takes a look at to the past more than 100 years since the end of WWI. In this book, we are given examples of successful, failed, and yet-to-be-achieved autonomy examples to give us a clear understanding of what autonomy can provide, how can it resolve minority conflicts within a state and what happens when autonomy cannot be achieved.

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Mihály TÓTH

**An Assessment of an Era Coming to an End, and Questions
of Whether It Could Have Been Different and How to Proceed
in Hungarian-ukrainian Relations. On Romantic or Naive
(or Dilettante?) International Legislation and Its Consequences**

This book review contains a summary of the publication: Fedinec Csilla – Tóth Norbert: *Romantic Legislation – Low-budget Practice: the Hungarian-Ukrainian Contractual Relationship*. Budapest: TK Institute for Minority Studies – L'Harmattan, 2022. 224 pp.