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## BOOK REVIEW: CULTURAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Alexander Čemez\*

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PAVLÍKOVÁ, B., ZIMA, R.: *Kultúrna politika Európskej únie. (Cultural Policy of the European Union)*. Nitra, 2014. 124 p. ISBN 978-80-558-0603-7.

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Monograph was written by Mgr. **Barbora Pavlíková**, PhD. and Mgr. **Roman Zima**, PhD. This monograph brings a certain novelty, as the relationship between culture and politics remains unexplored in our conditions. In terms of thematic classification, the subject of the publication is on the border between cultural studies and political science.

The monograph is logically divided into four chapters. In the first chapter, the authors deal with culture and its development. They explain the basic concepts that are related to the above-mentioned subject, such as cultural property, cultural values. The authors offer different perspectives on culture, for example axiological and anthropological or reductionist point of view. **Pavlíková** and **Zima** introduce the structure of culture and present its different areas. They subdivide culture into two parts: material and spiritual, and at the same time, they define the functions of culture.

The authors connect culture and politics in an elegant way, although they are two remote areas. The notion of politics they understand historically, i.e. they present its development from ancient era and offer historical excursion of views on politics from **Plato**, **Aristotle**, **Cicero**, they smoothly move on into the period of feudalism and to the thinkers of that period such as **Alighieri**, **Machiavelli**, **Bodin**, **More**, **Hobbes**, **Spinoza**, **Locke**, **Montesquieu**, **Rousseau**. An important place in the context of this topic have also **Immanuel Kant** and utopian socialists **Karl Marx** and **F. Engels**.

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This section culminates in the concept of cultural policy, which integrates culture and politics as key categories. At the same time, the section defines the term of cultural policy. For the creation of a comprehensive picture of cultural policy, the section presents its subjects, instruments and objectives.

After the initial theoretical entry, authors go to the actual issue of identity in subchapter 1.1 "National identity and cultural identity". Once again, they deal with these issues historically and analytically. In connection with the processes of globalisation and multiculturalism, they do not address this issue frontally, but differentiate between countries and subdivide them into small, medium and large.

The second chapter surveys various relationships between politics and culture. The authors ask themselves what is cultural about politics. According to them, there is a disharmony between politics and culture. On the other hand, they claim, that politics also has its culture.

The authors present views of some thinkers on culture in politics, e.g. **Václav Havel** or **Tomáš G. Masaryk**.

On page 33, **Pavlíková** and **Zima** introduce their own definition of political culture and a range of other theorists' definitions, e.g. **Böhret**, **R. Rose**, **G. Sartori**, **G. Almond** and **Verba**, **Duverger**, **Converse**, **Parkkin**, **Miliband**.

In the third chapter authors briefly refer to European history since the time of Charlemagne (**Charles the Great**) throughout the centuries to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with selected historical events, such as World Wars, Holocaust, post-war years, beginnings of the post-war European integration and creation of common European Cultural Policy.

In the section 3.1 "The development of legal culture from 1951 to the present" authors deal mainly with treaties and other documents regarding cultural policy, e.g. Declaration on European Identity.

They also pay attention to institutions related to cultural policy, e.g. the European Parliament, Council, European Commission and their subordinate structures: The Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament, The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS) and Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

The fourth chapter brings an added value to the subject, because it proposes a model of European cultural policy, in which the authors define cultural policy and its basic concepts, objectives and principles and propose creation of certain institutions related to European cultural policy: European

Cultural Committee, European Cultural Foundation. The culmination of the whole model of cultural policy is SWOT analysis.

For elaboration of monograph, the authors used 61 sources, which we consider adequate.

To conclude, we may state that the publication extends and deepens theoretical knowledge in the intersection of political science and cultural studies and acquires relevant place in this area.