Political Systems of the Countries of the Baltic-Black Sea Region

Brief description: The fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe brought democracy to the region for the first time in over forty years. Academics now had a new wave of democratisation and intense political change to study. This provided scholars with an almost unique opportunity to apply existing methods of political analysis to newly established democratic states. Countries incorporated in common regional Baltic-Black Sea space form a

geographic unit but which has ever been embodied by political cohesion among its diverse nations. Today, the Baltic-Black Sea region on the world political map exists

factually, not as judicially, without any system of politico-territorial division and management with centers that would ensure its sustainability, manageability, integrality at the whole.

This course aims to analyse the key institutional and constitutional developments in BBSR states, consider the development of political parties, party systems and party competition across the region together with analysing electoral behaviour. Examine the nature of executive-legislative relations including government formation and parliamentary behaviour in BBSR as well as the role of the president will be provided herein as well. This course will also analyse the nature of inter-state relations and relations with international organisations, specifically, the European Union. Finally, it will overview civil and political rights; social trust and tolerance towards minorities, gender equality and social integration

Objectives of the course:

The objective of this course is to compare and contrast different political systems in the Baltic-Black Sea Region. It reviews party systems and electoral politics, the current state of civil liberties and political rights as well as explores the level of social integration in the countries of the BBSR. It asks how democratic are these political systems and what conditions democratization in the whole region.

Learning outcomes:

1) Compares different political systems in the BBSR and their developments from the historical as well as theoretical perspective;

2) Compare and assess different institutional set-ups of the BBSR countries;

3) Analyse and explain the development of political parties and party systems in BBSR. Also, be able to identify the major political parties and political actors across the region.

4) Critically examine the influence of nationhood and statehood on democratic development in the region.

5) Explain the influence of external factors on political developments, in particular, the influence of the European Union.

6) Apply established theories of party system development, electoral behaviour and government formation to the countries of the BBSR.

7) Assess societal integrity (incl. ethnic minorities, gender rights) in the BBSR and define factors that influence it.

Study materials, including bibliography:

Obligatory

1. Wolchik, Sharon L., Curry, Jane L. (2018). Central and East European Politics: 4th Edition. Lanham: Rowman&Littlefield Publishers, pp. 33-224, 225-254, 313-404, 493-530.

2. Fagan, A., & Kopecký, P. (2018). The Routledge Handbook of East European Politics. Routledge: New York, 2018, Chapter 1, 3-9, 11-13, 15-17.

3. King G., McNabb (2014). Nation-Building in the Baltic states: Transforming Governance, Social Welfare, and Security in Northern Europe. Boca Raton, CRC Press, 2014. - pp. 43-64, 85-152.

4. Berglund, Sten (2013). The Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Pub. Ltd, pp. 1-216, 369-442, 691-822.

5. Meleshevich, Andrey A. (2007). Party Systems in Post-Soviet Countries : a Comparative Study of Political Institutionalization in the Baltic states, Russia and Ukraine. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. pp.115-214.

6. Chodakiewicz, Marek Jan. (2017). Intermarium: The Land Between the Black and Baltic Seas. London: Taylor and Francis, pp. 239-297.

7. Maciejewski W. (ed.) (2002), The Baltic Sea Region : Cultures, Politics, Societies. Uppsala: Baltic University Press, Section IV-VI.

8. Hague, R., Harrop, M., & McCormick, J. (2016). Comparative government and politics: An introduction. London New York, NY Palgrave 2016, pp. 90-161, 216-302.

Recommended

1. Makarychev, A., & Yatsyk, A. (2018). Borders in the Baltic Sea Region: Suturing the Ruptures. Palgrave Macmillan, Chapter 2, 4.

2. Henry Hale: “25 Years After the USSR- What's Gone Wrong?” Journal of Democracy, July 2016, Volume 27, Number 3, pp. 24-35.

3. Foa, R. S. and Ekiert, G. The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society Reassessed // European Journal of Political Research. - Vol.56, 2017. - P. 419-439.

4. Leslie Holmes, “Crime, corruption, and Politics: Transnational Factors,” in Jan Zielonka Alex Pravda, eds., Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe, Volume 2,International and Transnational Factors, Chapter 7.

5. Venelin I. Ganev, “Post-Accession Hooliganism: Democratic Governance in Bulgaria and Romania after 2007,” East European Politics & Societies, Vol. 27. No 1, February 2013, pp. 26-44.

6. Jacques and Zielonka Jan, “The State of Democracy 20 Years On: Domestic and External Factors,” East European Politics & Societies, Vol. 27, No. 1, February 2013, pp. 3-25.

7. Karolewski, Ireneusz & Benedikter, Roland. (2016). Europe’s New Rogue States, Poland and Hungary: A Narrative and Its Perspectives, Chinese Political Science Review, Vol., pp. 1-22.

8. Wittenberg Jason, “Conceptualizing Historical Legacies,” East European Politics & Societies, Vol. 29, No. 2, May 2015, pp. 366-378.

9. Kazhocinsh Janis (2015). Baltic Security in the Shadow of Ukraine's War, in The War in Ukraine: Lessons for Europe, A. Pabriks, A. Kudors (eds), The Centre for Eastern European Policy Studies, University of Latvia Press, Riga, pp. 52-64.

10. Koch Katharina (2015). Region-Building and Security: The Multiple Borders of the Baltic Sea Region After EU Enlargement, Geopolitics, Vol. 20 (3), pp. 535-558.

11. North Michael, History of the Baltic Sea, Cambridge, London: Harvard University Press, 2015.

12. Braghiroli, S., & Petsinis, V. Between Party-Systems and Identity-politics: the Populist and Radical Right in Estonia and Latvia, European Politics and Society, 2019, pp. 1-19.

13. North, Michael, and Kenneth Kronenberg. 2016. The Baltic: a History. Cambridge, Massachusetts Harvard University Press, pp. 262-325.

14. Eglitis, Daina, and Laura Ardava. “Challenges of a Post- Communist Presidency: Vaira Vīke-Freiberga and the Leadership of Latvia” in Women Presidents and Prime Ministers in Post-Transition Democracies, edited by Veronica Montecinos. - New York: Palgrave, 2017. - Chapter 13.

15. "Part 3. The East of Europe, West of Russia: What Role for Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey?" in Unrewarding crossroads? Тhе Black Sea Region amidst the European Union and Russia. Ed.by Anahit Shirinyan and Louisa Slavkova. Sofia Platform, 2015, pp. 121-189.

16. Secrieru, Stanislav. Protracted Conflicts In The Eastern Neighborhood: Between Averting Wars And Building Trust. CIES Neighbourhood Policy Paper. http://www.khas.edu.tr/cms/cies/dosyalar/files/NeighbourhoodPolicyPaper(06)(5).pdf

17. Kogan, Eugene. The South Caucasus Countries and their Security Dimension. March 2013. CIES Neighbourhood Policy Paper. https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/165850/NeighbourhoodPolicyPaper(11)(1).pdf

18. Triantaphyllou, Dimitrios. "The European Union and the Black Sea Region in Search of a Narrative or a New Paradigm, Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, 2014. 16:3, 286-299.