

Abstract

The thesis is a qualitative study of grey zones and grey phenomena on the border of economy and politics in the Czech Republic from 1995 to 2013. The widely ingrained presupposition that the closing dot to the 'transition phase' was the Europeanization process as connected to the procedures associated with becoming an EU member is commonly spread and taken for granted. Given verifying this presumption, the research field has been divided into two distinctive subperiods: the first one investigates patterns of practice as they were associated primarily with the stage of the change, which may be labelled as post-privatization/secondary privatization (1995-2004). The second subperiod in focus (2004-2013) has been the period from entering the EU in 2004 to the shockwave of reconstitution of the Czech political scene in 2013 after the government-parliamentary-clan-clientelist structures collision and the resignation of the Czech government. The empirical sources for the inquiry have been primarily the particular instances of happenings and problematic undertakings in the overlap of politics and economy as they are registered and referred to, for the given period of 1995-2013, in the weekly periodicals - Respekt, Ekonom.

The theoretical grounding of the study has been developed from identifying four waves in conceptualizing social change in CEE - in the form of 'stages schema' (transition-democratic consolidation; transformation-path dependency; state capture-Europeanization; varieties of capitalism-own pattern) and extending this theoretical grounding to more general social dynamics theories and theoretical controversies: pluralist theory versus systemic crisis approach; neoclassical approach versus institutional economics; culture-based reproaches for understanding social change). While working with qualitative data, the category of 'hybridity' has emerged. Also, in this functional context, 'canon' and changing 'canons,' as related to the peculiar flexibility of 'transitory order' and cultural patterns associated with real socialism and free-market democracies, turned out to be an associated category. Linking the qualitative research part and theoretical segment led to creating a 'cyclical schema,' dissimilar from the initially used 'stages schema.'

Keywords

Transition/Transformation; State Capture; Varieties of Capitalism; Europeanization; Hybridity; Canon