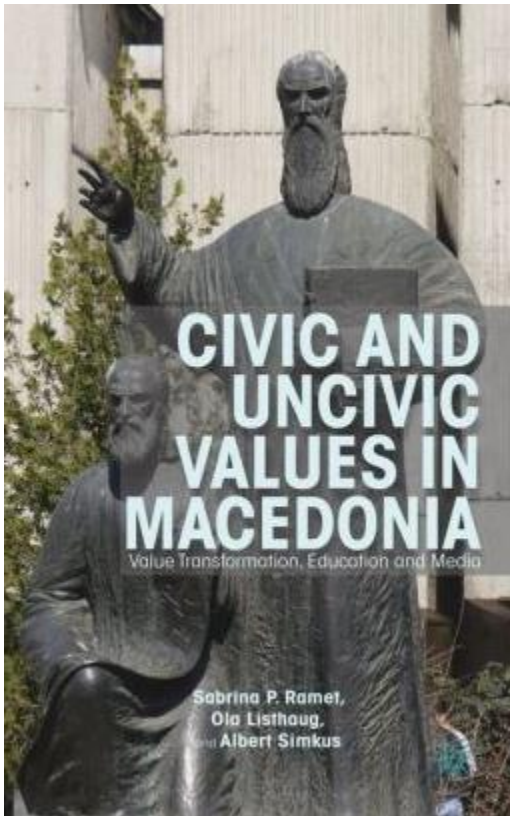


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***CIVIC AND UNCIVIC VALUES IN MACEDONIA:
VALUE TRANSFORMATION, EDUCATION AND MEDIA
(REVIEW)***



Book-title:
Civic and Uncivic Values in Macedonia: Value Transformation, Education and Media

Editors:
Sabrina P. Ramet, Ola Listhaug and Albert Simkus

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The 16th chapters included in this book were presented at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo during the two-day's conference in October (28-29.10.2011). This volume is fifth in the series of volumes dedicated to the Yugoslav successor states. This research project was conducted with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs and the Norwegian University of science and technology (NTNU).

From a structural point of view this volume is composed of preface, introduction, five parts, afterword, further reading and an index. This volume has 16 chapters from different authors. The object of this research is Republic of Macedonia in the last two decades observed from five different angles: Values and Agents of

Socialization, The System, Ethnic Issues, Education and Media, and finally Literature.

The Introduction is composed from three parts and is given by editor Sabrina P. Ramet. In the first part of the Introduction she makes an historical overview of the development of Republic of Macedonia from the very beginning – September 8th 1991 “when a republic-wide referendum endorsed independence”. Second and third parts are focused on the volume and she gives a review on the parts and chapters that this volume is composed of.

The first part is composed by five chapters from different authors i.e. Sabrina P. Ramet “Civic virtues, liberal values, and the civic culture”, Kristen Ringdal, Albert Simkus, and Ola Listhaug “Macedonian civic values within a European perspective”, Hasan Jashari and Albert Simkus “Differences in values within Macedonia: Macedonian–Albanian comparison” and finally Stefano Bianchini “Macedonia and the EU: reshaping social values in fluid times”. The part one focuses on values and agents of socialization and citizen’s attitude towards important political questions that are topical in the state. During their researches they come to some interesting points. For example Kristen Ringdal, Albert Simkus, and Ola Listhaug find that although the political trust is pretty low in Macedonia the support for democracy is still very high.

Part two is devoted to the political system. The first chapter is titled “Constitutional engineering and institution-building in the Republic of Macedonia (1991-2011)” by Biljana Vankovska. The second chapter is titled “Political parties, values, and democratic consolidation” by Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova. The third chapter is titled “Understanding the Ohrid framework agreement” by Dejan Marolov. Finally the last chapter in part two is entitled “The development of civil society in the Republic of Macedonia: modeling state–civil society relations” by Ilo Trajkovski. Part two brings together the analyses for the constitutional engineering, the institution building process, and the role of the political parties, the Ohrid framework agreement and the development of the civil society.

The third part of this volume entitled “Ethnic issues” is composed of two chapters. The first chapter by Bashkim Iseni is entitled “One State, Divided Society: The Albanians in Macedonia”. The author compares and gives its historical point of view for the Albanian minority situation in Yugoslav Macedonia and in independent Macedonia. The second chapter deals with the role and situation of the other ethnic minorities in Macedonia and especially with Macedonian Turks, Roma and Serbs in a terms of the challenges they meet in the sphere of education, social status, media coverage and so on. The title of the second chapter is: “Ethnic Minorities of Macedonia: Turks, Roma, and Serbs.” Author of this chapter is Frances Trix. Part three focuses especially on the inter-ethnic issues in Republic of Macedonia and concentrates on two aspects. First, the Albanian minority, the biggest ethnic minority and secondly all the others minorities, despite the fact that the current Macedonian constitution does not use the term “minority” as it is an old and, for some, offensive descriptive word.

Part four brings together three chapters about education and media in the Republic of Macedonia. The first one is titled “The media and values in Macedonia between regulation, privatization, concentration, commercialization, and pluralization” by Vesna Šopar. The second one is titled “Uncertain future: the Albanian-language media in Macedonia” coauthored by Iso Rusi and Katerina Spasovska. Both of these papers concentrate on the sphere of the media issues while the third article concentrates more on the field of the educational issues. This one is titled “Some aspects of history textbooks for Secondary School: The case of Macedonia” by Irena Stefoska who points out a differences in post – socialist history textbooks and the ones used in socialistic era.

The last part of this volume is composed by two chapters, first one is by Maja Bojadzievska and is titled “Imagining the Nation: The representation of historical figures in literature” and the second one is by Andrew Wachteland is titled “The novel as carrier of cultural values: Kica Kolbe’s the Gavrilov women”. Both of these chapters are devoted to the Macedonian novel literature. Author in the first chapter gives an overview of three novels published between the years 1989 and 2011 which, according to the author, question the nature of historical knowledge and contest the dominant national myths, and in the other chapter the author, among other, asks the question about Cosmopolitanism.

The author Andrew Rossis concludes this volume with the Afterword titled “Comments on Macedonia’s difficult transitions” in which he summarizes historical, regional and the internal context of Republic of Macedonia together with its accomplishments, but also its remaining challenges.

The volume is large in its scope and makes an attempt to bring the most important issues in Republic of Macedonia in the last two decades together in one place. This volume will be very useful for any researcher interested in Macedonia and its development in the past two decades. The fact that this volume is one of a series that also gives a fuller perspective of the other Yugoslav successor states’ development raises its value for any researcher who would like to complete the image of these countries’ “struggle” with transition.

