

## ABSTRACT

### The Csaba Lőrincz Prize

#### **VÍZI Balázs: The European Scene of the Protection of Minority Rights Today: Normative Regime and Political Discourse** 3

The study reviews the development and interpretative frameworks of the norms of minority protection in Europe. The main reason behind the uncertainties and incoherencies in interpreting international minority standards is that states, international organizations, and minorities formulate their positions in three parallel discourses (those of human rights, security policy concerns, and cultural diversity). As a result, one of the three discursive approaches comes to dominate alternatively, depending on political changes and contexts. In the past decades, a European minority rights regime has evolved due to EU enlargement, yet it is defined not by normative principles but rather by changing discourses. The European minority rights regime is therefore less stable, contrary to what the institutional system of the international protection of human rights would suggest.

### Personalities

#### **L. BALOGH Béni: From Federalism to Unification: Alexandru Vaida Voevod and Great Romania** 15

Alexandru Vaida Voevod was one of the most significant Romanian politicians in Transylvania in the first half of the 20th century. In the course of his long career, he made several unexpected and sharp turnabouts. He spent all his energies on the national liberation of Romanians in Transylvania as a minority politician and on ceding Transylvania to Romania as a participant at the Paris Peace Conference. Upon achieving majority status, he often expressed intractable or contradictory positions on the minority question. He changed his positions as the current political situation and his momentary interests required him to do. He always rejected the forced assimilation of national minorities, but stopped short of an elaborate, coherent, and tolerant conduct based on principle. The peak of his career was the period between 1918 and 1920. He had a prominent role in establishing Great Romania, first as a member of the Nagyszében [Sibiu] Romanian Governing Council, later as a prime minister for a few months, and then as a member of the Romanian delegation the Paris Peace Conference. Nevertheless, he always had a sort of

nostalgia for the Habsburg Empire and generally for the civilization of Central Europe.

**ZATYKÓ Margit: Hungarus Consciousness as a Tradition, Moral Obligation and Political Conviction: György Podhradszky and the Slovaks**

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György Podhradszky (1889, Besztercebánya [Banská Bystrica] – 1972, Budapest) belonged among those historians who avowed their Slovak origin and identity, and regarded it their duty to cultivate their Hungarus heritage. Studying his oeuvre reveals not only his own political thinking but also the situation of Slovaks in the interwar period, the months before and after Trianon, as well as after the border revision following the Vienna Accord. Podhradszky believed the Slovaks had been misled by the Czechs, and sought to call their attention to this, keep them in Hungary in a preferably federal state, and hoped to win them back after the formation of Czechoslovakia. He did so as a civil servant, journalist, teacher, historian, scholar, and a participant in various irredentist movements. In the meantime, he represented the interests of Slovaks in Hungary, and sought to obtain redress for their grievances. He never came under the influence of any of the prevailing minority policy ideas; he was never carried away by them; he himself was the carrier of the idea. As his works show, he was an intellectual able to mediate between Slovaks and Hungarians, and whose opinions were listened to on both sides. In spite of the Treaty of Trianon, he believed in the possibility of Hungarians and Slovaks living in the same fatherland again, in the *Saint Stephen* concept of Hungary, a New *Hungaria* of several nationalities.

**Minority Rights**

**NAGY Noémi: The Current Situation of the Language Rights of National Minorities in the Mirror of the Activities of the Institutions of the Council of Europe**

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The paper examines the current situation of the language rights of national minorities in terms of education, justice, and public administration as mirrored by the institutions of the Council of Europe. Apart from the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the monitoring material for 2017 and 2018 of expert committees of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities* are also examined. In spite of the committed rights protection activity of the Council of Europe, a flagship of European level of the international protection of minorities, it can be stated that the enforcement of the language rights of minorities unfortunately demonstrates serious shortcomings in

most European states. The question of language is the main source of social division and ethnic conflict in several countries, where minority languages fall victim to the language policy efforts seeking to protect state language.

**TOKI, Valmaine: The Unfolding of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** 71

After protracted debates, the General Assembly of the UN adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007. The vast majority of states supported the declaration at its adoption, but countries that had formerly failed to back it have now come round to committing themselves to comply with it (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the USA). Ever since, the literature has brought up the question whether the overwhelming support the Declaration had had implies the binding quality of the document or not. The study examines the question of the legally binding nature of the Declaration, and assesses the role of the Declaration in the international recognition of indigenous peoples and their rights.

**VEGA, Paula: Conflicts between Justice Systems of Ecuadorian Indigenous Peoples and General Jurisdiction** 86

The indigenous peoples of Ecuador have applied their own legal systems for centuries. The constitution adopted in 2008 provides for the autonomy of the recognized nationalities in the country. In spite of the Ecuadorian legal system having been in principle adapted to the international law instruments for indigenous peoples, it includes several limitations. Though the legal intention is that the country preserves its indigenous heritage, some cases cannot be overlooked, and the disputes over the constitutionality of the justice system the indigenous peoples recognize and the related infringements of human rights continue to have a bearing.

## **Brexit**

**EGEDY Gergely: Scotland and Brexit** 95

The unity of the United Kingdom and British identity legitimating it had to face several challenges already in the last third of the 20th century, and the most important one among them was the Scottish nationalist movement, which came to be the most important political force in Scotland in the first decades of our century. The study examines, after a brief historical overview, the political reactions to the results of the referendum on EU membership and the Brexit negotiations by Theresa May's cabinet in Scotland, where the majority voted against leaving the EU, and thereby provided ammunition for the Scottish National Party raising the banner of an independent Scotland. Analysing Scottish politics, the author argues that holding on to EU member-

ship does not automatically imply majority support for quitting the United Kingdom.

## Review

### **ORDASI Ágnes: Ideas on the Freemasons of Fiume [Rijeka]**

Ljubinka Toševa Karpowicz – Freemasonry, *Politics and Rijeka (1785–1944)*, Westphalia Press, Washington DC, 2017

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### **TÓTH Norbert: Does Human Rights Doctrine Change with Regard to Ethnic and Cultural Diversity?**

Gaetano Pentassuglia (ed.): *Ethno-Cultural Diversity and Human Rights. Challenges and Critiques*, Brill-Nijhoff, Leiden–Boston, 2017

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### **VESZTRÓCZY Zsolt: To Remain or Merge? Embourgeoisement of the Slovaks in the Second Half of the 19th Century**

Ábrahám Barna: *Megmaradni vagy beolvadni? A szlovákság polgárosodása a 19. század második felében*, Kalligram – Kalligram Polgári Társulat, Pozsony–Dunaszerdahely, 2016

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### **KOVÁCS Eszter: The Influence of Citizenship and Voting Rights on National Identity**

Szabolcs Pogonyi: *Extra-territorial Ethnic Politics, Discourses and Identities in Hungary*, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2017

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*Editorial:* HU 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa u. 6.  
*Phone:* +36-1-445-0473, *fax:* +36-1-445-0479  
*Internet:* [www.prominoritate.hu](http://www.prominoritate.hu)  
*E-mail:* [redactio@prominoritate.hu](mailto:redactio@prominoritate.hu)