

Mgr. Johana Shahini - The causes of fragility of the Albanian democracy

Factors that influenced the fragility of Albanian democracy vary. This work highlights the main weaknesses of Albanian democracy. It focuses on the political consequences and effects of electoral laws in Albanian political system and the Albanian party system. It analyzes the political inputs and outputs of the democratic process through 4 main variables: the political system, which means the institutional sphere, political factor in terms of political parties, political elite and electoral laws/systems.

The first chapter contains introduction to the historical background of the regime.

The second chapter analyzes the institutional heritage in the interwar period.

The third chapter focuses on the characteristics of the Albanian communist regime and its results.

The fourth chapter focuses on transitional period through a detailed analysis of strategic policy decisions and results of transformation process.

The fifth chapter focuses on the build-up phase of post-communist institutions between 1991 and 2001. This explains the ins and outs of political process and initial institutional negotiations and proposals.

The sixth chapter focuses on the phase of consolidation of these institutions between 2001 and 2010. The analysis shed some light on the processes that led to the draft of electoral law/system, to factors, impacts and correlations of power in the negotiations, and to the results of international engagement in the process of shaping institutions.

The seventh chapter presents the Albanian institutional and electoral engineering in the last two decades and its results.

The eighth chapter is an empirical analysis of mechanical effects in the representation of a party system of Albanian parliamentary elections in 2005 and 2009.

PhD thesis is concluded with an appendix presenting opinion polls, which took place before the parliamentary elections in 2009 and conclusions that summarize the key findings of the analysis.