

Adrian Pop, *Originile și tipologia revoluțiilor est-europene* [The Origins and Typology of Eastern-European Revolutions] (Editura Enciclopedică: București, 2010), 440 pp., ISBN: 978-973-45-0624-8.

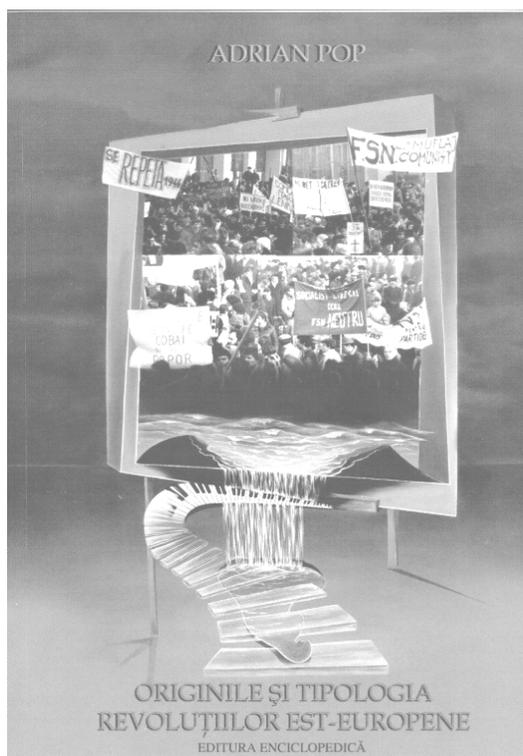
by **Andrei TINU***

The author of the volume dwells upon the matter of Eastern-European Revolutions from a double perspective: diachronically and synchronically. In the first part of the paper, the writer relates the Eastern-European Revolution in the moments prior to the delegitimizing of the Soviet Societies and the appeal to the postwar status-quo. In the second part, the book underlines the specificity of the Eastern-European Revolutions, providing a typology of the political transition in Central, South-Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union (negotiation – Poland and Hungary, surrender – The Democratic Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia, the coup d'état - Bulgaria, the popular revolt and coup d'état – Romania, popular revolt – Albania, impulsion – USSR and Yugoslavia). The book also presents major landmarks regarding the “global” leadings of Eastern-Europe Revolutions.

Professor Adrian Pop's volume is structured in two sections (section 1: The long span of the transition, section 2: The short span of the transition), nine chapters, an introduction, the after word, a bibliography and a mane index.

The first chapter of Professor Adrian Pop's paper analyses the evolution of labor movements in Eastern Germany since 1953. The author's opinion is that the 1953 German crisis had a major impact both on PSUG and especially on the paradigmatic shift the German issue would engage.

In the second chapter of the volume “The origins and typology of Eastern-European Revolutions” extremely important issues of contemporary history are dealt with, specifically the Cold War period: Stalin's disappearance. The death of the Soviet leader signified a good occasion for the USSR's



* PhD student in History, “Ovidius” University of Constanța, andrei_tinu@yahoo.com

satellites to seek independence from Moscow. After Stalin's death, the entire history of the Soviet Union and of the states led from Kremlin must be looked upon and understood through the alternative PCUS leadership of the State and of the reformist currents (Khrushchev, Gorbachev) and conservative (Brezhnev, Cherenkov).

The third chapter, of great utility in creating my doctoral paper brings a new perspective to the circumscribed events that occurred in the Prague Spring. Adrian Pop treats Czechoslovakian crisis from a triple perspective: the event as such, with its causes and the Czechoslovakian Communist Party's inner struggle for influence, the broad description of the liberal traits that occurred during Dubcek's governance, and a reflection of the global crisis (regarding both the controlled liberalizing period and the implementation of the Warsaw Treaty status).

In the fourth chapter, Professor Adrian Pop seeks to answer questions related to the Poland Communist regime crisis. The author reckons that The Anti Stalin Communism promoted by Wladislaw Gomulka brought hope to many Polish when it came to the inner reformation of the communist regime.

Chapter five constitutes a very interesting one dedicated to the analysis of the European civic activism. The Polish KOR, Carta 77 initiated by Václav Havel in Czechoslovakia and the main currents of the Hungarian descendents contributed to the failure of communism in Europe. Chapter six closes the first section of Professor Adrian Pop's volume. Here, the author identifies and sketches the causes and those responsible for the falling and end of the Communist Block and of the Cold War, as it follows:

- in Eastern Europe, Adrian Pop identifies five major causes created by five crisis: the systemic one, the functional one (the inefficiency of the economic system), the rationality crisis (social changes), the administrative crisis (the tensions that occurred within the party) and the legitimate one.

- Strictly responsible for the end of the Cold War and of the Eastern Block are, in the author's opinion, Pope Joan Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev, and the European Organization for Security and Cooperation. Professor Pop underlines the consequences of signing The European Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation on 1 August 1975. The above mentioned consequences were "both immediate and for the long run", in the sense that "The Soviet Union's European frontiers were approved of", while "The West gained and accepted indirect means of controlling it through the international campaign on the fundamental human rights".

The last section of the book analyses the European Revolution typology, their fundamental trait and specificity. This occurs through chapters VII-IX, the section being called "The short span of the transition. On pages 215-216, Professor Adrian Pop creates an interesting table, in which he introduces the changes that have occurred in the Eastern European system in the above mentioned typology.

Professor Adrian Pop's volume is a useful learning tool, provided that its information is well structured and embraces well written syntagms and its rich bibliography includes 500 titles.