

Mihai Ghițulescu, *Reign and Government, Organisation and operation of the government institution in Romania (1866-1940)*, Craiova, Aius Publishing House, 2015, 236 p.

Mr. Mihai Ghițulescu propose to clarify in the paper named *Domnie și guvernare. Organizarea și funcționarea instituției guvernului în România (1866-1940)* [*Reign and Government, Organisation and operation of the government institution in Romania (1866-1940)*], an ambitious objective, complex and quite difficult to analyse, the author itself admitting from the beginning the fact that this analyse is not exhaustive, but more likely brings into attention “new ideas” about the problematic that the book is built around.

The objective of the paper, named in the *Introduction* by the author, is targeting “the correlation of the constitutional-legal norms with the practices and putting in context the Romanian norms and practices” (p. 5), using an o comparative analyses of Romanian democracy with western democratic regimes, and also with the east European ones, the end result being, in author’s opinion, “a roughly accurate image of Romanian democracy and its originality” (p. 6).

Considering the mentioned objective, the author is structuring his paper in six chapters, each having a variable numbers of sub-chapters, having titles more or less common for a classic scientific research paper: I. “How many and witch Powers”, II. “The Monarch – «the Pivot of Power »”, III. “The Council of Ministers or «Ministers Reunited in the Council»”, IV. “The Ministers. «The Wretched Refresh »”, V. “All the Government People... in the Territory” and VI. “Epilogue (1939-1940). «All the King’s Men»”.

Nevertheless, on a more careful lecture of the contain of the chapters can be seen that the titles are eloquent for the problems approached by the author that, under “unusual” titles retraces classic subjects giving them a note of particularity inculcated by the writing and analysing style of the author.

On the whole, the book of Mr. Mihai Ghițulescu proposes a “different kind” of lecture to the reader that highlights interesting ideas about the evolution of the government institution between the years 1866-1940, chronological limits identifiable with the Romanian constitutional monarchy system, keeping the proper rigours for the years 1938-1940.

A thoroughgoing study of the research started in this book (besides another objective announced by the author in the *Introduction* of the book) will be capable to provide, probably, a more detail image of the epoch, of the operation of the government institution during Romanian constitutional monarchy, period (1866-1938) considered by the specialists to be the epoch of Romanian traditional democracy, as well as for the period of the authority regime of King Carol II (1938-1940). At the same time, we consider that using and analyzing some primary, newer and richer documentary materials will provide the author new perspectives and interpretations regarding the problematic of the paper.

Thru the manner of approach used by the author to treat the subject, we can say that *Reign and Government, Organisation and operation of the government institution in Romania (1866-1940)* represents a synthesis paper that can be useful to students in History or Political Studies but also to specialists.

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