

Data di pubblicazione: 30 dicembre 2021

*Roland Lami, Ndërkombëtalet dhe partitokracia në Shqipëri,
UET Press, 2020
(International factor and Partitocracy in Albania)*

In this book, based on the political events of the period 2008-2010, the author analyzes the behavior of prominent local and international actors. Important authors, who examine the behavior of international actors in countries with a hybrid regime, confirm the thesis that they see politics more as a technical process and less as a political process. This idea is also applied with reference to the experience of Albania. However, the specific context is often ignored or superficially considered.

The analysis and assessments of international institutions relating to a multilevel context and the very position taken by the representatives of the international community, especially for the period of tensions of the years from 2008 to 2010, have not been able to provide solutions to the problems and to tensions. In fact, the problems have remained the same and have only been postponed over time. Furthermore, these problems have aggravated and exploded more forcefully at other times, although the procedure or decision of the institutions was respected, regardless of the context in which these institutions operate and the quality of the decision-making process they produced.

Recensioni

Partitocrazia in Albania allowed the whole system to be influenced by the two main parties, the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party. This system works on behalf of the two main parties very well, provided they are not in conflict. But, when one of the two main parties - the Socialist Party or the Democratic Party - according to their political agendas decide to cause a crisis, or aim to dominate the system by itself, the whole system is prone to crisis. Attempts by some intermediary (person or institution) to get involved in resolving the crisis caused by one of the main parties often serve to worsen the situation rather than to resolve it. Those few institutions that theoretically should be immune to the crises caused by politics fail to function outside the effects permitted by political crisis. In other words, the system itself fails to force crisis-causing political parties to re-enter the system or to make their role in the system unchanged.

In these circumstances, political actors - the two main parties - in many cases seek legitimacy for solving crises in the international institutions - not in the institutions that have produced themselves over the years. This, not without reason, as they know the quality of functioning of institutions that are at best captured by both parties or at worst only by one party. In these conditions, the solution does not come from within but from the international factor. Another reason is that the legitimacy of the international community is more credible to public opinion than the legitimacy of local institutions. The local demos as a source of legitimacy is replaced by the international community when in the meantime the latter does not vote or is not voted by the Albanian voters.

And more importantly, international factor's approach is oriented towards respecting procedures and institutions rather than the content produced by these procedures and decisions taken by the institutions in question.

There is often a tendency to export universal practices and standards regardless of the context of a particular country. This approach by the international community to countries emerging from totalitarian regimes to democratize them has been labeled as a minimalist approach.

The author carefully analyzes this approach, considering it - with convincing arguments - insufficient as the socio-political context, popular tradition and the role of political actors are very important. Furthermore, the author does not fail to examine the position of other analysts, who, on the other hand, consider compliance with procedures as essential for the continuity of democracy, especially in the case of Albania, where institutions are weak and need consolidation in order to the functioning of the system. Of great interest is the study that the author reserves for these different ways of considering the theme in the perspective of how important the process of establishing democracy is for Albania.

Undoubtedly, the criticism addressed in this study to the role of the international community does not aim to defactor or neglect its role. On the contrary, the author insists on the importance of international institutions and the importance they have in the democratic development of Albania, especially considering that, without their effective presence, the weakness of the democratic institutions in Albania, which has experienced a long and terrible period under the domination of the

Recensioni

dictatorship, could worsen the democratic process and the development of the country. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that a significant number of reforms have been implemented as a result of pressure, encouragement or recommendations from international institutions or actors and not on the basis of initiatives by local actors from within. Finally, due to the lack of the necessary social, economic and political structures needed to dictate to the political actors in the country a behavior different from the current one, it will take years before Albania is among the countries with consolidated democracy.

Roland Lami's work can be considered an interesting and fundamental contribution both for the analyzes it contains and for the possibility of evaluating the path that Albania has made so far in terms of democracy. At the same time, this study can foster a better understanding of the role of political parties in Albania, considering that their commitment improves and favors the development of the country to the extent that they confront international factors and actors to become protagonists. active in democratic development.

Gaetano Dammacco