



Katja Seidel.

The Process of Politics in Europe: The Rise of European Elites and Supranational Institutions. (London and New York: Tauris Academic Studies, 2010, ISBN: 978-1-84885-326-3, 245 pp, £56.50 hb.)

The book is an original example of displaying the first initiatives of European bureaucracy and the roots of European administrative culture. Recruitment processes, (in)formal rules in distributing the posts, original working methods and practical challenges to overcome within the institutions are explained in detail to give inside information from the early years of institutionalism of today's EU.

The book consists of two parts. The first part includes two chapters which explain the organizational structure and administrative problems of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community and the biographical backgrounds, careers and socialisation mechanisms of the civil servants respectively. Second part of the book has three chapters and comprises of in-depth information about the Commission of the European Economic Community which is built on the institutional legacy of the High Authority. The third chapter is about organizational structure, working methods and related problems. The fourth chapter focuses on biographical information of the Eurocrats as well as the so-called internal and external factors in Europeanization and socialization mechanisms. Chapter five examines the emergence of the administrative cultures in Competition and Common Agricultural Policy Directorate Generals (DGs) and their effects on the policies created.

The book has some concrete strengths. First of all, human factor that drives an institution is very well reflected and the book actually demonstrates how the personalities affect the institutions when Monnet's idealism and Hallstein's pragmatism are elaborated in detail. Monnet's strong impact in the institution, his efforts for the creation of "a new race of man" (in his own words) and his expectation of the first European civil servants to develop a unique European attitude are very well displayed. Originally classifying the Eurocrats according to their biographical backgrounds and affiliation to the European idea is a useful contribution as well.

In the book, the period of Presidency of Monnet in High authority (1952-55) and the early years of Presidency of Hallstein in the Commission (1958-67) are examined. Taking into account the workload comprising the interviews and archival study, it is reasonable for the writer to elaborate specifically the mentioned years. However, learning about the future periods of the Commission would shed a light on the direction of the Commission on the pace of supranationality. A brief historical review of this process in the coming years and the challenges faced by the Commission during these periods are highlighted shortly in the "conclusion" part of the book. Thus the findings of the book will be a valuable insight for a detailed comparable research of the future periods of the Commission.

Some shortcomings of the book can be summarized as follows: Examination of the institutions namely High Authority and the Commission is mainly confined to detailed administrative issues rather than the policies. It is evident that the information



concerning the educational and professional backgrounds, commonalities and differences of the staff and the other administrative and internal functioning procedures provide a very useful data base for further research. Although debates on Competition and Common Agricultural Policy in the related chapter cover this concern to some extent, it would be very interesting to learn about the internal dynamics and debates about the common policies and the European Integration during the initial periods.

Moreover, it is mentioned in the introduction that the book ‘examines the biographical background of the European civil servants, the motives that drove them to enter the European administrations and whether they underwent Europeanization adopting European values and aims.’ (p.1) Although the book actually fills a gap in Europeanization studies in terms of focusing on European idealism and illustrating the European administrative culture, it falls short in linking the content with Europeanization. In other words, it lacks in-depth theoretical information on “Europeanization” concept. As Europeanization is a popular phenomenon expressed with a special terminology, the book just gives the related information but does not attempt to foster it with a strong theoretical background of Europeanization concept in the overall organization of the book.

All in all, as exploring the first examples/experiences of a supranational entity, it is a very interesting book and gives valuable insight for those who are doing research on the history of European integration and Europeanization. The methods and classification variables of the book to understand to what extent Europeanization of the staff is enhanced are good references for academics doing Europeanization research in their own countries. The book is successful in demonstrating the enthusiasm, idealism and the European spirit of the European elites and the atmosphere of the European institutions in the early years of integration.

Hatice Yazgan

Assist. Prof. International Relations Department

Çankırı Karatekin University, TURKEY