

From Post-Communism toward the third Millennium

Aspects of Political and Economic Development in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe from 2000-2005

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Josette Baer (ed.)

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The idea of publishing a book containing our latest research on ongoing privatisation, relations to the EU, revolutions and the political circumstances of what is generally called “national identity”, was born during the annual conference of the *Academic Fellowship Programme* (AFP) of the Open Society Institute OSI in Crimea in May 2005. The authors are all young academics who originate from and/or have taught in Belarus, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Russia and Ukraine. All authors are university teachers and researchers and have lived for at least one academic year in the countries analysed in this volume, where they had access to the daily press and archive material.

G. P. E. Walzenbach investigates the relationship between the EU and Ukraine, asking whether the model of multi-level governance is compatible with current Ukrainian politics. Questioning the roots of ethnic nationalism in the post-Yugoslav framework, Nenad Marković deals with aspects of political psychology and philosophy. Daniela Kalkandjieva analyses the status of religious studies in Bulgaria that have been determined by the myth of the Orthodox Church as an institution that helped the nation to unite. Petro Kuzyk focuses on the political identities that shaped the *Orange Revolution*, dividing Ukrainian citizens into the orange camp, led by Viktor Yushenko, and the blue camp of Viktor Yanukovich. Maxim Ryabkov investigates Russian health care, in particular the issue of supplementary payments in a system that is officially free of charge. Marina Y. Malkina's analysis focuses on the roles and relations of the state and state agents that are of crucial importance for understanding the current process of privatisation in Russia. Finally, my analysis of the political system of Belarus discusses the phenomenon of Neo-Soviet patriotism, which can be seen as the main reason for the passivity of the citizens keeping the Lukashenko regime in power.

From Post-communism toward the Third Millennium mainly addresses scholars of democratisation studies, economics, political science and contemporary history, as well as anybody interested in the recent development of the Eastern and South-Eastern European region. The volume offers new and unique source material and detailed insights. The authors hope that the contents of their research will give rise to further discussion.