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BOOK REVIEW

DISCURSUL OFICIAL DESPRE IDENTITATEA TERITORIALĂ A ROMÂNIEI ÎN PREZENT (PRESENT OFFICIAL DISCOURSE ON ROMANIA'S TERRITORIAL IDENTITY)

Oana-Ramona ILOVAN, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj
Napoca, Romania, References, Annexes, 165 pages.

Ioan Sebastian JUCU

Official discourses on territorial identities have always fuelled the attention of the various scholars either in the field of geography or in different related fields, with this topic forming central issues in the specific contexts of the geographies of discourses. Identity has always been seen as a geographical topic especially when it is related to nations, nationalism, or to different cultural aspects defining the regional and national patterns of a place, a region or a country. In this regard, Romania as an emblematic country placed in central-eastern Europe raised interesting aspects of national identity based on the one hand by its cultural background framed by the issues of inter- and multi-culturality, and on the other hand by the national, political and economic evolution in the last three decades. The official discourses on contemporary Romanian territorial identity represent an interesting research work with a geographical perspective largely oriented to the present European context. The book starts with a brief introduction in which the author details the scientific motivation of this research as well as the identified problems of the national identity of Romania and Romanians under the present globalization umbrella. The main topic addressed is to identify the role of territorial identity from the side of the official discourses in Romania and in the European Union. In line with this issue, amongst others, the main objectives are to conceptually clarify the meanings of territorial identity; to find the existing connections between identity, regions, communities and the social capital; to unveil the role of national identities in Europe; and to present the core arguments that sustain the crucial role of identity in the national and international contexts of development.

After a methodological framework designed to decipher the main issues of Romanian identity discourses, the author brings to the fore the main concepts dealing



with territorial identity, space production and reproduction in the wide context of imagined regions and communities, and of social capital. The main body of the research focusing on the results and discussion unveils the relevant discourses on European territorial identity through specific themes such as the various reflections on European identities and the discursive definition of the European identity. Then, a specific chapter is dedicated to the official discourse on the Romanian territorial identity. The chapter highlights the major reflections on Romanian territorial identity with a case study on official discourses in the public space and media. The analysis presents the official discourse of. George Ivaşcu. To unveil the relevance of this topic in the national and European context, the final part of the book includes some relevant samples from different discourses assumed by such outstanding politicians as Winston Churchill, T. S. Eliot and Mikhail Gorbachev. To these, the discourse on the Declaration on European Identity (1973) of nine foreign ministers of the European Union and the discourses regarding the Warsaw Declaration are included by the author to highlight the relevance of territorial identities in the frame of the present geographies on identities discourses at the regional, national and international level. The book is well referenced with outstanding works in the field of territorial identity, thus representing an interesting source of inspiration and reflection regarding the questions of territorial identity in the present imagined space of Romania and Europe.
