



Journal of Intercultural Management and Ethics

JIME

ISSN 2601 - 5749, ISSN-L 2601 - 5749

published by

Center for Socio-Economic Studies and Multiculturalism

Iasi, Romania

www.csesm.org

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BOOK REVIEW

THE ETHICS OF THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF PEOPLES

THE CARPATHIAN-DANUBIAN-PONTIC DOMAIN AND THE UNITY OF THE NATION, OF THE LANGUAGE AND STATE OF THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE

Grigore Posea, Publishing House of the Romania of Tomorrow
Foundation, 2017

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Context and importance

Ethics is a new field of research that is expanding its scope more and more. There are always acts and deeds of people, isolated events or complex processes that require investigation from an ethical point of view. For a long time, the elements of ethics appeared implicitly in the composition of some studies. The new spirit of the age in which we live urges us to reread the valuable studies published in different fields in order to identify elements of ethics or to be able to validate them from the point of view of the fundamental names of ethics.

No matter how much a researcher tries to detach himself from the real world in order to act in the world of ideas, the break from the events that surround us cannot be total. Even less can the separation of research from the dominant events of the moment be achieved when it comes to research in the fields of social sciences or economics.

The new international reality that appeared in February 2022 probably raised for many researchers the question of the existence of ethical norms in the field of geo-politics, of the evolution of peoples towards the stage of their organization in national or multinational states. How objective and ethical can peacemaking be if it is based on the balance of forces at a given moment? How fair can the borders that are accepted to a people be if they are based on the act of subjective will of some people who represent political interests?

When can we talk about a just and lasting border settlement? Is it enough to maintain borders if those who imposed them are strong enough to sustain that state? When and how do we use the historical principle for a given state configuration?

Reading these questions we will establish at the first moment that we cannot find objective criteria to answer. Moreover, we will be skeptical that there are reasonings connected to the norms of ethics to intervene in such problems. Confidence in the power of science and especially in the ability to comprehend ethics was however validated. I found elements of applied ethics in the field of geo-politics and the evolution of peoples in an exceptional book dealing interdisciplinary with the state unity of the Romanian people.

General elements about the book

The book *<The Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic domain and the ethnic, language and state unity of the Romanian people>* was written by the Romanian geographer Grigore Posea

(1927-2023). The book appeared in 2017 at the Romanian Foundation Publishing House Romania de Maine in Bucharest, Romania, in the <Centenarul Marii Uniri> collection. Through the subject covered, the book covers the fields of geography (the one in which its author is enshrined), history, geo-politics, economy. The book was not written under the emotional impact of the approaching jubilee year 2018 for the Romanian people. It is the synthesis of the author's intellectual creation made over several decades. The book contains in a unitary and coherent form studies that appeared over time in a different format, in different specialized or science dissemination journals. The book's connection to the great themes of ethics can only be realized by reading it in its entirety. Although the geographer Grigore Posea is internationally recognized, the book <The Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic Domain and the ethnic, linguistic and state unity of the Romanian people> was published only in Romanian.

Contents of the book

The book <The Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic domain and the ethnic, language and state unity of the Romanian people> has two parts: Geographic coordinates and geo-political implications (Part I), respectively Historical-geographical realities and the demands of sustainable development (Part II).

Part I is divided into 7 chapters: Romanian geo-politics, the Romanian geo-political system, the geomorphological system of Romania's territory, the land and the Romanian people, the role of the Carpathians and Transylvania in the history of the Romanian people, state evolution on Romanian territory.

The text in part II is organized into the following 8 chapters: territorial regionalization of Romania for the future European Union, the basic principle of the territorial-administrative regionalization of Romania, geomorphological regionalization, the geographic system structure of the Romanian space, the geomorphological system of the territory of Romania, Romania's relief and plate tectonics, geo-political location, geography and sustainable development.

Ethics criteria proposed by the geographer Grigore Posea to be applied in geo-politics The limits of the concept

First of all, the geographer Grigore Posea, as is natural for a specialist in this field, has well-defined elements such as size, relevance. It is also rigorous in applying the *pars per tuto* principle in philosophy. He also has the ability to understand the relationship between the general and the particular in science. Under these conditions, he proposes an opening from geography, history and economics to geo-politics based on a case study, that of the Romanian people. It does not make valid value judgments about other geographies or other peoples. He limits his conclusions to the space whose geography, history and economy he knows well.

Moreover, Grigore Posea does not establish that the mechanisms through which the Romanian people formed their unitary national state are the only ethically valid ones. Through reasoning based on geography, history and economy, it establishes only the justice of the positioning of the Romanian national state, without considering other peoples or states.

The essence of the concept

Based on the theory elaborated by Grigore Posea, the Romanian unitary state was formed by national will and is based on an ethnic, linguistic, economic and natural unity (page 97).

Reasoning from geography, history and economics applied to geo-politics

Grigore Posea shows that *<in the entire range of tools, as well as in clothing (costume), everything that represents the material and spiritual culture of the Romanian people, contains archaic elements from the time of the Daco-Geth ancestors>*. The evolutionary versus archaic elements can be easily identified. At the same time, elements of autochthonism originating from the same daco-geta chain can be observed in the Romanian peasant, which are justified by the process of active and long adaptation to the surrounding environment. Precisely this adaptation of the Romanians to the natural environment in which they live represents an important ethical argument for the formation of a national state of the Romanians in the respective territory. Regionalism is also a proof and a component of the process of creative adaptation of people to the specifics of the local natural environment.

Linguistic unity is another ethical argument. No dialects appear in the linguistic territory of the Romanian language. This is evidence for another ethical element of the formation of the Romanian national state: the movement of people throughout the period of its existence as a people between the areas inhabited by Romanians. Due to the permanent contact of the speakers of the Romanian language, no dialects appeared within it. The circulation of people had economic aspects in mind: carting and intense trade due to the economic complementarity of the territory inhabited by Romanians, the geographical complementarity generating the natural trade between areas, transhumance, movements in search of work, the specific movements of some residents of certain areas in order to sell some products in which they were specialized, floating, the movements imposed by special socio-political situations.

Transhumance for the Romanians was not nomadism, but a seasonal commute between the alpine pastures and the steppes or the marshes at the edges of the Carpatho-Danubian-Pontic territory. Thus transhumance strengthened the unifying role of economic factors and represented one of the forms of active adaptation to the natural environment.

Movements in search of work usually took place from the mountain areas to the plain areas during the peak periods of some agricultural work such as mowing, reaping, picking grapes. The trade organized through the large fairs positioned at the intersection of areas of interest for the exchange of products intensified the links between different areas of the territory occupied by the Romanians.

The logical line of reasoning presented by Grigore Posea thus brings into discussion the voluntary, natural formation of the unitary Romanian language in the space of formation of the Romanian people. At the same time, another axiom-type causality of language unity is validated: people are in permanent contact and always feel the need to understand each other.

Extensions of geographer Grigore Posea's reasoning

The theory proposed by Grigore Posea to make the connection between ethics and geo-politics can be seen as a core subject to logic reasoning, both those that belong to the logic of philosophy and those that belong to mathematical logic. I think that the written text wanted to be strictly centered on the positive area, where it explained the geographical, historical and economic bases of the space on which the Romanian people formed their state. It is painful for any people when the territory of the state is smaller than its ethnic space, where its language is spoken. Equally painful is the observation that the geographical space in which the Romanian language was spoken was much larger than that of the unitary Romanian state. Grigore Posea gives an explanation for this type of situation in an implicit variant, through the opposite axiom of the reciprocal in mathematical logic. The difference between ethnic space and state space is caused by the too weak intensity of spiritual and economic ties.

The future projection of the ethical concepts proposed by Grigore Posea

When elements related to historical evolution intervene in an explanatory theory, the restriction of future eligibility appears out of the blue. In many cases, history cannot repeat itself, which means that the chain of cause and effect established for the past will no longer work in the future.

Thus, the respective theories remain only at the explanatory stage. Through the book under consideration, Grigore Posea, although he puts into circulation a theory in which historical data (political history and economic history) play an important role, also takes the important step towards prediction. It moves the relevant elements of the past into the new European or international context and generates elements for a theory of state stability for the times in which we live.

The problem of regionalization, presented as being mainly the "competence" of geography, brings to attention the preservation of decisive economic flows within the state, even if the potential of free trade and specialization within the international division of labor is exploited.

In order not to affect the future unity of the state, Grigore Posea recommends that regionalization be carried out in compliance with a few rules:

- a) To create regions for the inhabitants, not for their leaders
- b) To create regions in which the specificity of the geographical environment dominates, based on field studies capable of ensuring scientific knowledge of the realities
- c) To consider maps organized by previous regions, taking into account their results.