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Ethnic Nationalism and Democracy: The Case of North Macedonia

by Flamur Ismaili

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Book Review by:
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The book *Ethnic Nationalism and Democracy: The Case of North Macedonia* offers a profound analysis of the relationship between ethnic nationalism and democratic development in North Macedonia, exploring identity, governance, and integration in a multi-ethnic context.

Ethnic nationalism and democracy are closely related and very important topics that determine the framework in which the everyday life of citizens is placed. The analysis of their structural relations has both theoretical and practical significance. Especially when it comes to a specific country like North Macedonia, for which there is a lack of more serious academic literature. Hence, the undertaking of the author of the proposed book Asst. Prof. Dr. Flamur Ismaili is bold and pioneering for the development of similar research in the future.

The book "Ethnic Nationalism and Democracy: The Case of North Macedonia" is a significant academic undertaking written in 7,458 words. It is logically and methodologically correctly divided into six chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. Methodological Approach, 3. Theoretical Approach of the Challenges to Democracy and Democratization with a focus on Western Balkans, 4. Literature Review, 5. Post Ethnic – Conflict Period: Rise of Authoritarianism and Challenge of Democracy Promotion in North Macedonia, 6. Conclusion.

The chapters are interconnected in such a way that each chapter provides a basis for understanding the next. The intention is obvious to start its analyses from the most abstract concepts in the categorical apparatus of the social sciences, and later to sharpen the focus, which ends with an analysis of specific examples and situations. The six chapters of the book together form a whole that explains the nature of the relationship between ethnic nationalism and democracy in North Macedonia. This book therefore establishes a foundation for understanding the complexities of democratization in multi-ethnic societies, using North Macedonia as a case study and examining the broader impact of ethnic nationalism on intergroup relations and democratic dynamics. This book delves into the role of identity, with a particular focus on the multi-ethnic societies of the Western Balkans. The complex interplay of ethnicity, language, religion, and history often fuels intergroup tensions. These dynamics are crucial for understanding not only the societal fabric but also the political discourse in North Macedonia.

The author of the book, Asst. Prof. Flamur Ismaili, demonstrates an enviable knowledge of ethnic nationalism, democracy and the way in which these phenomena are structured and incorporated into everyday life in North Macedonia. The literature used in the book is extensive, relevant and current. A good side of the book is the connection of the theoretical approach illustrated with practical examples. The writing style meets academic criteria, and at the same time is accessible to a wider readership, which could contribute to the popularization of the book beyond academic circles.