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The New Right – Ideological Hibridity

The „New Right” founded in 2000 revitalized the ideological field of the Romanian extreme right through a discourse mixing old themes of the Legion with new ones that are common in West. The ideological hibridity is one of the effects that come from the construction of an identity less haunted by the ghosts of the totalitarian past.

The synthesis that N.R. operates with is visible even in the local tradition of the Legion. It is interesting to see the pragmatic manner in which N.R. has absorbed two rival branches of the Iron Guard: that of Zelea Codreanu’s who founded the organization and who was killed in 1938 and that of Horia Sima’s the leader of the Legion in 1940-1941. For example Sima’s book „The Purpose of Nationalism” has become one of the „manuals” of N.R. because the author tries, surprisingly, to combine democracy and the „real” nationalism purified by its malign forms such as fascism and national-socialism. The ideological violence of the Legion that proclaimed without any restriction the need to replace democracy with a totalitarian regime becomes nowadays a „softer” discourse justified, especially, by the resistance to a globalisation that eventually will swallow all national identities. But the absorption of Horia Sima is quite natural if we take in count the fact that N.R. wants to leave aside the exclusive worship of the past (as its name also emphasizes this), which is of course dominated by the charismatic figure of Zelea Codreanu. Having all this we can even say that the „new” Sima is the link between Codreanu and the Western right.

As I already pointed out the real stake here is to modify the violent and racist image of the extreme right in order to make it acceptable to the public eye and for this N.R. but also many Western groups are trying to change their vocabulary and even their leading figures. For example, N.R. calls itself „christian-nationalist organisation” in resonance with Codreanu’s religious ideals, but there is a difference because the symbol of N.R. is the celtic cross which is used by many european organisation of this type. Another one is the replacement of the famous and compromised „new man” symbolising the elite of the future, with that of „political soldier”. Regarding the political system N.R. dreams about a „participative democracy” which would avoid both capitalism and comunism. But the most interesting and important change is the new anti-minority discourse. Anti-semitism being a very sensitive issue is hidden in all kinds of way and even denied, moreover the Hungarians are also left aside being the subject of other parties, that is why the focus is now on roma population. They represent, for N.R., the real danger to the cultural and biological heritage of the Romanian people, roma being similar, in this logic, with the other minorities that are „invading” Europe: Arabs, Blacks, Asians, etc.

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