

II. BOOK REVIEW

IRINA MOROIANU ZLĂTESCU:
Human Rights a Dynamic and Evolving Process,
Pro Universitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2015, 466 pp

To every reader, the book offers the most interesting journey from the history and philosophy of human rights to codification for the protection of certain human rights that respond to the needs of the contemporary society.

After the presentation of the philosophical and legal roots of human rights, the chapter dedicated to the guiding principles of human rights presents the complex net of institutions, instruments and mechanisms built at a global level for promoting and protecting the rights that ensure a good life for every individual and a harmonious society. A special attention is given to the European Social Charter, a document regarding numerous rights that sprang out in modern life. “One can speak about a time of social protection restructuring, as well as the capacity to adapt to the new situation” the author emphasises. Considering acute issues like the economic crisis, migration, inequality between sexes or the situation of the persons with disabilities, the author shows that “the main requirement consists in finding and using the most adequate means that allow maintaining social cohesion among all members of society, between those who make an active contribution to its progress and those who are totally or partially excluded from the process of finding solutions to the big social and economic problems, between men and women, between generations”.

The book is released at a time when 70 years from the founding of the United Nations Organisation and 60 years from the year Romania adhered to the organisation are celebrated. In this context, the author scrutinises the new Romanian civil and criminal codes from the perspective of human rights, as well as Romanian legislation regarding the protection on equality and non-discrimination, migration and the religion freedom in Romania.

Chapters regarding new areas where the need for the protection of human rights emerge, like ethics and bioethics, media, business, show the international progress on the subject. An emerging right, a corollary of many other, the right to happiness is discussed from the same perspective.

As the author is a prominent figure in the area of human rights, titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law - IACL, Director of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights – IRDO, member of the French Society of Comparative Legislation, coordinator of the UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, member of the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Professor, Doctor’s Degree and Postdoctor’s Degree Advisor with the Faculty of Public Administration of the National University for

Political and Administrative Studies form Bucharest, National Rapporteur or Co-reporter to numerous IACL Congresses, the information comprises parts of international documents and national reports on certain human rights, presented at international and national events on various occasions.

As the result of many studies coordinated by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights are mentioned in the book, the feeling emerging after completing the reading is that a genuine Romanian school on human rights has been shaped. This school had a good impact in the academic area, leading to the creation of the UNESCO Chair of Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance at the Baia-Mare University (today a part of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca) which coordinates, together with IRDO, a master programme on the subject of human rights, as well as in the inclusion of the course “Protection of civil rights in the jurisprudence of CEDO”-centred on the relation between business and human rights, in the curricula of the master program “Business law”, organised by the Faculty of Law from Cluj-Napoca, from “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Bucharest.

An important work in the area of human rights, the book provides both a general perspective in the old and new philosophy about human rights and valuable information on the legislation, institutions and mechanisms for protecting human rights from different generations.

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