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Political and social security in the Swedish “welfare state” model – summary

The thesis presents a Swedish concept in the field of the social and political order formation as well as evolution in the Kingdom of Sweden. The order is called today collectively the “welfare state” model. The greatest influence on that order had ideas inspiring the program “Folkhemmet” (“The People’s Home”) of the Swedish Social Democratic Party which since 1932 is dominating on the political stage of this Scandinavian country.

The political and social security is one of the strongest need in the highly developed countries. One of those countries is Sweden. Starting from the Viking Age, through the following centuries, the Swedes established in the common beliefs a model of the cooperation which guaranteed them the subsistence in very tough climatic and geographical conditions. The cooperation of egalitarian character became a component of today’s Swedish identity. Since the end of the Second World War that fact was even more exposed by the “welfare state” model which is based on a common effort to pay high tax in return for the equal and fair its redistribution. Therefore, the eccentric manifestations as much as the lack of the willingness to consent are not tolerated in Sweden.

„The third way” which was taken up by the Swedes in their developmental politics, in conjunction with egalitarianism and universalism featured by the Social Democrats in the relations state-society, makes up today an extremely interesting chain of mutual interactions.

The complex administration and the pluralism of the public social benefits have not been influencing pejoratively for a long time the entrepreneurship and innovation level of the inhabitants of that Nordic country. Not until 70s XX century along with series of crisis (from economical ones to immigration ones) an evolution of the Swedish welfare state model and the security level which was assured by its running are distinctly visible.

The purpose of the thesis is an analysis of the security in a view problematic-chronological within the scope of the Swedish “welfare state” model with a particular consideration of the political and social factors both internal and external. That is why the political and social system characteristic is treated with a special attention, including the

political powers having the biggest influence on the social-political reality formation, the law enactment process and the administrative model of decision making, the influence of the immigration on the stability and the Swedish “welfare state” model continuity, the issues of the individual and social liberties, principal prerogatives of the education system, the frame of the alcohol politics and the road traffic security politics. The integrity is complemented by an attempt to compare a development path of Sweden and Norway, the security level in both Nordic countries (with a particular consideration of terrorism threat) and the means to cope in Scandinavian countries with present world challenges – immigration crisis and the conflict in Ukraine.

The processes of many centuries which create today the reality and the order on the Swedish political stage as well as get a form under the social pressure of the political elites, an evolution of monarch role in the Swedish democracy, a long-term supremacy of the Swedish Social Democratic Labour Party, a decision to widely open towards the immigrants, the extreme Right activity – those factors in the highest extent influenced the political security level of the biggest Scandinavian country. The synergy occurring between all of them implicates though not only the stability, the democratic order, but also new and new challenges and treats for reason of state. In the processes which have as a purpose to cope with them a great role is played by the experts. The make law process relies on them and to a large degree the decisions depend on their judgement. Obviously they are not free from faults. Pragmatically, the well-thought-out decisions require time. The issue appears though when the time lacks among other things in case of a dramatically increasing number of immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees yearly – starting from 2014 – coming to Sweden (the expertise of the case will be ready not until last quarter of 2017). Nonetheless, the experts’ role and position in the Swedish model “welfare state” is distinctly described in a Klaus Petersen’s and Åsa Lundqvist’s book from 2010 whose title being a paraphrase of an official United States’ motto “In God we trust” is “In Experts We Trust”.

However the definitions of “the prosperity state” and “the welfare state” do not summarize a quintessence of the Swedish “welfare state” model. In that model a great accent is put also on ensuring possibly the highest political and social security level.