

OPINION

THE KOSOVO-SERBIA CONFLICT: FROM NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVING THE FINAL STATUS TO POLITICAL DIALOGUE (2006-2016)

1. Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied relation.

There is no doubt about the theoretical and practical significance of the problem in view of the development of the situation in the Western Balkans and in the wider context of the possibilities for enlargement of the European Union.

Bujar Deskai's dissertation is extremely well structured and this contributes to the importance it acquires in both scientific and applied science. He considered all significant aspects of the chosen topic. The dissertation is simultaneously devoted to the possibilities that international negotiations - with and without mediation - can prove to be a major factor in resolving international conflicts.

The author is well prepared, has delved deeply into the subject and is precise and accurate in many aspects of his work, to which I have no significant remarks to add. The dissertation is dedicated to an undoubtedly problematic and nearly unworkable international problem - the solution of the Kosovo-Serbia conflict, the study of which coincides with the practical problem of finding a solution.

The aim of the doctoral student is to reveal on how and to what extent the solution of the Kosovo problem through the use of the mechanisms of international negotiations can be in the competences and possibilities of the international community and especially of the UN and the EU.

The scientific and applied significance can be attributed to the main conclusions and findings that are made in this dissertation.

The main working hypothesis is: the EU is only a mediator who uses contractual relations with the parties to the conflict to stimulate them to make progress in the mediation process, while the UN relies mainly on external actors. The additional hypotheses clarify the complexity of the researched problem - The lack of a binding EU mechanism, which makes it difficult to implement the agreements reached as a result of the negotiations. As a result, the EU and UN crisis management models have to find a way to legitimize each other. The resolution of the Kosovo-Serbia conflict depends on the willingness of the parties to the conflict to compromise; The lack of unity in the EU and the uncertainty over the Kosovo issue are obstacles to the implementation of the agreements. Other important factors in the talks included the existence of "cold peace" and "hidden tension" and the influence of other internal and external factors in the negotiations.

The main conclusion is that dialogue is key to future interstate relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

2. Justification of the goals and tasks in the dissertation.

The dissertation covers 216 standard pages, structured in an introduction, five chapters, a conclusion and appendices. There is no separate list of used literature sources. The main summaries and conclusions are made both in the conclusion and in the additional reviews of the research hypotheses, research question and scientific-applied recommendations. For the needs of the research, a significant amount of literature cited below the line was processed, but it was not published after the exposition.

The aim of the study is to answer the question of the extent to which political negotiations have an impact on resolving the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia. The main research thesis is explained and analyzed in detail.

3. Correspondence between the chosen methodology and research methodology and the set goal and tasks of the dissertation

The scientific methodology used corresponds to the nature of the research. This is a typical Case Study. The method is mostly descriptive, with limited analytical predictions and an answer to the question "How can we overcome this state of uncertainty in resolving the Serbia-Kosovo conflict through the negotiation mechanism?"

The research method is mainly qualitative, but is also based on secondary collected data, using mixed - qualitative and quantitative methods. Through the descriptive approach, the integrity of the research is achieved and empirical testing of the hypotheses is carried out. Other appropriate scientific methods have been used, but I personally lack the method of modeling to describe a possible scientific-applied interpretation of a hypothesis in which the contradictions between the negotiating delegations would be overcome.

4. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation

The dissertation has a clear analytical character, which is directed in several main directions, in accordance with the tasks. The creative development of the set problems in accordance with the chosen methodology and the processed huge empirical material cannot but lead to the achievement of quality scientific contributions and the dissertation in several directions. The main scientific contributions can be presented as a descriptive summary of the negotiation process between Pristina and Belgrade, the influence of local and external factors and international mediators and public opinion in the respective countries.

Scientific contributions:

I see a major contribution in the development of political science analysis from scientific to specific scientific and applied aspects. The detailed description of the negotiation process in all its complexity and contradiction is also remarkable.

5. Opinions, recommendations and notes.

My recommendations are:

- it is necessary to make a more concise explanation of the main thesis;
- more precise summarization of the available and used literature in the respective bibliography;

After the respective revision, the author could publish his work as an independent monograph in Bulgarian and English.

6. Conclusion

The scientific results achieved by Bujar Deskai in the dissertation give me reason to give a positive assessment and propose Bujar Deskai to obtain the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in higher education - 3. "Social, economic and legal sciences", by professional field: 3.3. Political Sciences; scientific specialty: Political Science

14.05.2021

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