

Bulgarian Historical Review

Издание на Института за исторически изследвания при БАН

Bulgarian Historical Review XLIII (2015) 3-4, 193-211
ISSN 0204-8906

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Factors Influencing Political Apathy: Comparative Context of the Political Culture and Apathy

(Abstract)

Political apathy means lack of interest in politics and it plays a significant role in identifying the level of involvement of citizens in public policy issues and democracy. Interested citizens are familiar with numerous political issues and are more active than apathetic citizens. Apathy means a political indifference and the opposite of it is the political interest in democracy. Political apathy is an attitude, rather than only any lack of activity and it doesn't mean only the 'no vote' situation. The amount of political apathy in some European countries eventually can be treated as specific peculiarity of political systems of those countries and as a consequence of specific political cultures of certain countries. But, in the case of the Balkan countries, aside these reflections, one may identify some other reasons that lead to the decline of interest to take part actively in the political processes, especially in terms of their declining percentage in the voting outcomes. In studying the political factors and simulation elements to the political apathy, apart of the premises that reflect with challenges of political participation and difficulties of political representation; and the issue of citizens' political involving discouragement, however one should consider as well as the specifics of the political culture. The paper explores the core factors and challenges of the political scenes of the Balkan countries in the transition and it pretend to identify the systematic phenomena that reflect from these factors and challenges within the theoretical context of the political culture.