

Review of: "Collective Guilt and the Search for Meaning in Post-Communist Albania: An Existential Perspective"

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The article uses the existential perspective to examine the role of collective guilt in the process of meaning-making in post-communist Albania. A subject little studied until today, nonetheless very pertinent. Narrative analysis is used as a research method in order to discover patterns and establish themes and structures of meaning-making. Literature review and references are integrated as constructive part of concepts' meaning and analysis. The article is easy to read.

Some remarks.

The article is too schematic. The sections are descriptive, without nuances, particularly those concerning the case of Albania. The definition of concepts must be contextualized both in the post-communist and in the local (Albanian) contexts. Authors can benefit from transitology studies on this issue. In the Albanian case, the collective guilt is foremost a political concept. It was advanced by politics, more precisely by the democratic opposition in the early 1990s. This assumption avoided punishment or exclusion from the new democratic system of people who participated actively to the communist system. This oversight raises questions about the representativeness of the sample (the social and political position of the interviewees in the communist past is not clearly evident) and the biased nature of the conclusions (the participants are self-appointed and framed by the interviewers). The opposite feeling, nostalgia for communist Albania, as the other side of the same coin (this feeling is also openly manifested by many Albanians) is omitted, making the conclusions limited in scope and purpose.