

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the experiences of individuals who lived through Albania's post-communist transition, with a particular focus on their sense of existential collective guilt and the coping mechanisms they employed through meaning-making processes. This research provides valuable insights into the psychological dynamics of post-communist transitions, offering a foundation for future interventions and strategies aimed at healing and progress in societies with a communist legacy. It also addresses the limited research in the Albanian context on these topics, emphasising the need for further exploration. Overall, this article contributes to the growing body of literature on collective guilt and meaning-making in post-communist societies, offering valuable insights for both scholars and practitioners seeking to address the legacies of the past and promote healing and reconciliation.

The paper is an outcome of excellent research carried out by the authors. While acknowledging the authors' commendable research efforts, I would like to provide constructive comments on specific aspects of the paper to enhance its clarity and comprehensibility.

1. The research demands a brief overview of the twenty written narratives selected for the study.
2. In the introduction, this paper should set the stage by providing a contextual overview of communism in Albania, highlighting the actions of the regime that resulted in deep societal wounds, such as decades of totalitarian rule, political repression, economic hardship, and social fragmentation.
3. Expanding the discussion section of the paper with a focus on addressing the research questions more comprehensively can enhance the paper's contribution by providing practical insights into resolving the complex issues surrounding collective guilt and meaning-making in post-communist Albania.
4. The research highlights the assertion that collective guilt and meaning-making processes can empower individuals and communities to strive for a brighter future in the context of post-communist Albania underscoring the potential resilience and transformative power of psychological mechanisms. Here, the question arises- how can these findings be practically applied to support healing and progress in other societies grappling with the legacies of traumatic historical periods?