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BOOK REVIEW

Ionut-Bogdan BERCEANU

Sisteme administrative emergente/ Emerging
administrative systems

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The author, Dr. Ionuț- Bogdan Berceanu, is a lecturer within the Faculty of Public Administration of the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, with a PhD in administrative sciences , raises the interest of the specialists in the legal and administrative field, practitioners and theoreticians, offering the volume called *Sisteme administrative emergente/ Emerging administrative systems*, a work which represents a real support in the curricular development of any administrative sciences program.

The scientific, methodological and instrumental content of the book reflects the experience that Dr. Ionuț- Bogdan Berceanu has, both as specialist in administrative and legal sciences – being the author of over 30 scientific papers in the field of administrative sciences and public law, published in international journals or presented at national and international conferences, and as practitioner within the Romanian public administration authorities, conferring real pedagogical support for students and teachers.

The book is introducing a new approach to the phenomena and processes of public administration, that of "emergence", a characteristic of the social systems. The author proposes the study of the role of emergence in the public administration systems, by analyzing the public administration from the approach of general system theory, analysis instruments, and the administration's interactions with its environment. The emergence of the public administration is the result of the interaction of administrative actors and systems on the one hand, as well as, on the other hand, of the interaction of systems with the parts of the global social system to which they belong. We can speak, therefore, of an internal administrative emergency, self-created in the system of an emergency induced by the processes that condition the global social system: European integration, globalization, Europeanization, etc.

The book is structured in five chapters, each chapter having an abstract, introduction and conclusion. The book also has a special chapter of introduction, in which is explained the main research objective of the book and the research objectives, and also a general conclusion chapter, in which there are mentioned the main ideas regarding the characteristic of the emerging administrative systems.

Within the first chapter, called *Theoretical aspects on the systemic approach in public administration*, the author makes a general introduction to the terminology used in the book, and highlights the main approaches that led to public administration research, emphasizing that researching public administration is characterized by an interdisciplinary approach, an approach that gives it an unique and complex character that is constantly evolving. The systemic approach is a method used in specialized studies within research on the administrative phenomenon. Thus, the author is stating here that it is possible to perceive public administration as a system insofar as the elements that make it up take the form of the system, such as: finance, human resource management, communication or administration of material goods - are all parts of the subsystem of public administration.

In the second chapter, called *Applying systems theory in public administration*, the author has the main purpose to abstract and comprehensively define the using of systemic approach to public administration. He presents the meanings of the notion of administration, focusing on an interdisciplinary approach in order to emphasize the mixed, hierarchic-functional structure of the public administration system, by considering the public administration system as a part of the global social system, which has two essential and indispensable component elements: the structural-organic element and the functional element. The chapter underlines that public administration is a fundamental subsystem of the social system, an aspect that makes it closely related to the changes that occur in society as a whole and the changes within its own system.

Chapter III - *Approaches and evolutions in the literature on the concept of "emergence"* - details, in particular, the interdisciplinary approach of the concept, by giving examples of its evolution. The chapter reveals that the term "emergence" initially had a philosophical use, which then evolved into other approaches specific to various sciences. Thus, the literature understands it in different ways depending on the approach chosen in research and knowledge of that science (example: biology, chemistry, medicine, mathematics, philosophy, economics, sociology, etc.). Thus, emergence has been used by physicists to explain the emergence of the universe, by psychologists - to explain consciousness, by economists and investment advisers - to explain the market behavior, and by organization theory - to explain informal "networks" in large companies. After analyzing all the approaches used in biology, chemistry, philosophy and economics, the author is arguing that emergence, viewed in a broad sense, means a certain type of change, where disruption, differentiation and coherence are dimensions of emerging change that are also found in the public administration system.

The fourth chapter - *The emergence of administrative systems in the context of the European Union* - is dedicated to the relationship between emerging public administration systems and the role played by the

European Union. The evolutions of the administrative system are connected indirectly with the implications that the European Union has, as well as with the two processes that it produces, namely European integration and Europeanization. It allows the understanding of the constant and primary relationship between the changes of the administrative systems and the stimuli imposed by the European Union. In this situation, the emergence of public administration systems can be assimilated to a process of change caused by external factors, such as European Union, which produces certain mechanisms leading to the emergent change, through its complex process of European integration.

Chapter V allows the understanding of the dimensions that the emergence can have at the level of the administrative system, the author identifying the transition process, the reform as well as the administrative convergence process. In this chapter, a framework model to analyze the administrative emergence is also presented. In order to be more concrete in his research, the author is focusing on examples of emerging administrative systems in some states from South-Eastern Europe. Thus, the emerging change has materialized for the states of Southeastern Europe through various processes and stages that can lead to the creation of a framework model for analysis, such as: the transition process, through which the bases of stable institutions were created after the break with the old regimes; the reform process, materialized through the various strategies to be adopted in order to reform the state and the administrative system and directly related to various objectives, most importantly the accession and integration in European Union; the convergence process, through which the administrative-state systems show certain similarities, which appear as a result of the implementation of various reform policies and strategies.

In conclusion, the book is able not only to present, with analytical rigorousness, the main theoretical aspects and elements presupposed by the study of the emergence in administrative systems, but it also offers a new approach within the specialty literature, which is relatively poor in approaches to social emergence and, even more, to administrative emergence. By using the concept of emergence as a characteristic of the administrative systems, it offers a viable alternative for public administration modernization, for the purpose of ensuring its sustainability and its actions in society.

The book written by Ionuț – Bogdan Berceanu constitutes a significant contribution brought in the last years for understanding the complexity issues of the public administration system, a fact which recommends it as compulsory lecture for both the students and the scholars, in their activity of research, education and training.