



**Marko Parezanović**

*Protection of the Constitutional Order* (2nd ed.)

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#### SOFT POWER AND PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER

Encyclopedically precise, theoretically complete and methodologically gradual work, *Protection of the Constitutional Order* by Professor Marko Parezanović, PhD, has recently been published as the second edition of a scientific monograph that attracted significant attention from the professional public. At a time of global geopolitical changes in which the territorial integrity and political sovereignty of targeted states become the target of “non-violent revolutions” and internal political frictions, the author, through experiential analyses of characteristic examples, has shown the importance of timely protection of the constitutional order, but also the essential methods and techniques which are applied in its protection, pointing to potential mechanisms, methods and strategies of state defence. That is why this is a unique work that using scientific and professional terminology ex-

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plains the background and logistical coverage of 28 different forms of action in hybrid conflicts, as stages of preparation and action in the overthrow of the constitutional order of the targeted state.

Structurally, the book is composed of seven consistent, comparative and dialectically connected chapters that speculatively and conceptually connect the political, information and security rings which protect the state. The way in which Professor Parezanović develops an ideologically invisible research framework is impressive, because the system he talks about is not a mechanical collection of imposed patterns, but a sophisticated model of collective behaviour based on skilfully hidden principles of information management and the interests of hidden power centres. After brief conceptual-terminological and theoretically well-known clarifications about the basic aspects of the constitution and the protection of the constitutional order, the author deals in more detail with numerous forms of endangering it, from espionage, political coups and “colour revolutions” to hybrid wars, terrorism, extremism and organized crime. It is here already that we can see a range of experiential knowledge, known only to the participants of the “light and shadow” games, because timely “detection, observation, documentation and cutting of all forms of unconstitutional activities is the best way to eliminate security threats”. Destructive propaganda-information activities and similar abuses are part of the rich arsenal of promoters of surveillance capitalism, who use numerous tactics to change consciousness to create a behavioural surplus in disaffected parts of society, thus constructing the stage for a brutal change of power. Behind-the-scenes actions conceal the gradual disempowerment of the state, and the cunning and perfidious instigation of political, social and religious crises which is planned, organized, logistically supported by the media and social networks, tends towards internationalization, which ensures the support of the real initiators of change.

The author is a great expert on the focal topic, where he carefully and competently singles out important factors that threaten the constitutional order of the state. Applying scientific methods, primarily logical and scientific knowledge, he reveals the characteristics and models of the economic and social enslavement of a territory, explaining the growing role of energy, biological and ecological security, and recording a number of potential threats to the security of a community. The psychology of the masses easily turns into destruction over time, so by putting their own interest before the general one, the individual accepts the imposed patterns of behaviour, providing a basis for subversive activities that can easily become violent or destructive in character. The recent pandemic, as well as possible scenarios of health crises, too easily destroy a security system built over decades, unprepared to confront its own population. A similar thing is happening in terms of increasingly frequent obstructions of economic, energy and infrastructural projects that are stopping further development of the country, spreading public distrust in their own leadership. Parezanović clearly observes how “covert or public financing of environmental organizations and movements from abroad, which are later used for the realization of opposition political goals” is misused for the later “creation of platforms as a cover for penetration into social institutions” (p. 172). The step from an environmental activist to an opposition politician is very short, because the green agenda is a legitimate cover for violence in the streets and ideological changes to the system.

In the chapter on social factors endangering the constitutional order, Parezanović structurally explains the nature, strength and methods of behind-the-scenes games about pow-



er and maintaining power. The sharpness of goals and ideas that change the power relations in the world is demonstrated through the demystification of the apparatus battles that produce partial or complete paralysis of the system. When the line of leadership and reporting is no longer observed, or when mutual understanding and tolerance disappear, society faces a crisis and a possible redistribution of power, which threatens the functioning of the state. The author is a man of practice proven in the daily activities of extreme fan groups, trade unions and trade union organizations, illegal demonstrations and various forms of civil disobedience, so his analyses should be read carefully. Although they do not refer to a specific country, it is easy to recognize numerous elements that could be applied to countries all over the planet, which gives the entire work a universal value. The new logic of the accumulation of security challenges emerges from every page of this monograph, showing how the protection of the constitutional order is an increasingly difficult and complex task, based on excellent knowledge and management of numerous skilful techniques to hide true plans and intentions.

The essential components of the system of protection of the constitutional order have been the same for centuries, but with digitization and surveillance capitalism, the concepts of attacks on state sovereignty, territorial integrity and national sovereignty are changing significantly. The author perfectly observes that “the control of the state border gains importance especially in the periods immediately before and during the electoral processes” (p. 214), pointing to the vulnerability and weakness of democratic procedures and the possible influence of “phantom voters” who actively help to change the electoral will of citizens. The outflow of information in the age of digitization and numerous technologically convergent tools is becoming an increasingly pronounced problem, so full secrecy in work remains the best measure for the full functionality of all segments of the state system. Objects of critical infrastructure will increasingly be the target of attacks, Parezanović claims, pointing out the importance of their protection, including political leaders, as well as the full extent of their counterintelligence protection.

We especially recommend the seventh, last chapter of this study because, through a concrete analysis of several characteristic examples of colour revolutions, it demonstrates the seriousness and extent of such forms of endangering the constitutional order. From the Euromaidan in 2014, through the colour revolutions in Belarus in 2020 and Kazakhstan in 2022, the stones of the mosaic are being completed, proving the perfection and comprehensiveness of non-violent fundamentalism, which destroys constitutional orders and changes the political systems of the attacked countries, but also the fact that with adequate and timely measures of the state, the revolution can be prevented. Through the use of rich video material, analysis of documents, numerous testimonies and documentary records, the author reveals the important chronology of events and the cause-and-effect relationship, giving them a historical perspective and the current political-security dynamics and perception necessary for a deeper reflection on the topic. The political polarization of society was a prerequisite for the non-violent organization and symbolic unification of the opposition, in which case the foreign factor is just waiting for an occasion to attack the legally and legitimately elected government of the attacked state. Civil disobedience is a redesigned “extremely dangerous form of politically motivated resistance of citizens to the state system, which, if it takes root, causes huge problems in the functioning of the state and can lead to social collapse” (p. 251), warns the author. The geopolitical framework is



changing with an incredible acceleration and distribution of the promises of benefits that follow the change of government, in parallel, political and overall social tensions, strikes, non-violent protests are fuelled; misinformation creates an atmosphere of hopelessness and fear, until the moment of escalation of moral panic and rebellion of the manipulated population, which by abandoning non-violent patterns threatens the constitutional order. Soft power becomes a built-in element of the process that aims at the overthrow of the constitutional order, and the result of the defence “depends on the quality of personnel who deal with the issue and who are formally and legally responsible and sectionally in charge of that area”, concludes Parezanović (p. 373).

The monograph *Protection of the Constitutional Order* is accessible to a wider audience, we would say first of all to young people – students and pupils, because they are among the target groups of performers of coloured revolutions, but also to mature readers uninformed about new technologies, mechanisms and persuasive skills with which gullible masses are seduced. That is why the book is written in a simple, comprehensible and logically connected style, which expertly competently and theoretically correctly indicates and reveals the invisible threads that weave the network of destroyers of the constitutional orders of the targeted countries. This is where the useful and social value of this manuscript comes to the fore, because there is no doubt that in practice and in the age of redistribution of geopolitical interests and the symbolic power such challenges will become more frequent, whereas only stable and orderly societies can have a high-quality and effective concept of defending sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is offered by this monograph!

