

Секция «Юриспруденция»

**Electoral and legal culture of the Weimar Germany citizens
(Электорально-правовая культура граждан Веймарской Германии)**

Боков Юрий Александрович

Кандидат наук

*Волгоградский государственный университет, Юридический факультет, Волгоград,
Россия*

E-mail: bokov2004@yandex.ru

To study the subject most fully we will analyze the electoral and legal culture of the Weimar Germany citizens along with the theoretical aspect of the subject. Thus, Yu. A. Vedeneev and V. V. Smirnov point out that the electoral and legal culture of a person is “a complex dynamic unity of knowledge and understanding of electoral regulations and procedures, of authority and actions of election organizers and other participants of an electoral process, and understanding of their competence; the unity of interest and attitude towards elections, towards electoral rights and possibilities; the unity of appraisal of electoral legislation and its application in practice, appraisal of every stage of an election campaign and election itself; understanding of advisability and effectiveness of one’s participation in elections; understanding of the adopted patterns and norms of behavior of electors and other participants of the election process” [3,42].

If we try to assess by the above mentioned criteria the level of the Weimar German citizens’ electoral and legal culture we will find it very high.

Firstly, this thesis is supported by the stereotype of the German mentality as such. “Germans are famous for their discipline, adherence to order, the urge to strictly obey to every rule and instruction. Numerous prohibitions that a traveler can see at public places in Germany are strictly obeyed. For example, it is prohibited to get in or get off a tram in motion, or to enter through a door where an “Exit” plate hangs and vice versa, or to go along the left side of a bridge and so on” [2,9].

Considering this it is hard to imagine some regulation (including that in the elections sphere) being ignored.

Secondly, the statistical data which was derived from archival sources[4,156], show that the voters’ attendance at elections was rather high and averaged 80 percent. Thus we can conclude that since the majority of Germans voted they believed (or at least they hoped) that their votes mattered. However, to be honest, we should add that it was not seldom when people said like this: “workmen voted for this party and then for that party – life was getting worse. Now they don’t trust in anything and don’t hope”[5,9].

Besides if German citizens really had had the feeling for law and order, and had had been much cultivated they would have been able “to rightly assess arguments of the contesting parties in the election instead of trusting blindly in the Hugenberg and Nazi demagogues who used democratic liberties for fighting democracy”[1,153]. Russian voters tend to do similarly. Yu.A. Vedeneev points out that most Russian voters are unable to make unbiased judgments about the candidates, instead they are apt to yield to emotions and hence are easy manipulated [3,179].

In conclusion we'd like to note that the main reason why the Weimar Germany citizens lacked electoral and legal culture was the absence of political experience. Universal suffrage and some other democratic institutions had just been established but the experience for using them had not yet been acquired. That is why "when the Weimar Republic gave way to the true political liberty, Germans stood at the gate with their mouths open like peasants who were invited in a castle and were quite confused not knowing how to behave"[2,153].

Unfortunately Germans failed to stand the test of democracy. Will we succeed? Time will show.

Литература

1. Биск И.Я. История повседневной жизни населения в Веймарской Республике. Иваново: Ивановский государственный университет. 1990.
2. Домбровский Н. Как живут люди в Германии/Под ред. А.И. Дурикина и Е.М. Никольской. М.: Работник просвещения. 1929.
3. Представительная демократия и электорально-правовая культура/Под общ. ред. Ю.А. Веденеева и В.В. Смирнова. М.: Весь мир. 1997.
4. Российский государственный архив социально-политической истории, ф. 215 оп. 1. дела № 156.1- 156.22.
5. Стенбок-Фермор А. Германия снизу/Пер. с нем. В. Стёпина. Л. - М.: Государственное издательство художественной литературы. 1932.

Слова благодарности

Работа выполнена в рамках реализации ФЦП «Научные и педагогические кадры инновационной России». Государственный контракт №П1291 от 09 июня 2010 года.

Иллюстрации

РЕЦЕНЗИЯ

Представленная на рецензирование статья к.ю.н. Бокова Юрия Александровича «Electoral and legal culture of the Weimar Germany citizens» написана на важную и актуальную тему. Повышение уровня правовой культуры граждан чрезвычайно необходимая и важная гарантия построения правового государства.

Работа является самостоятельным, творческим правовым исследованием, выполненным по проекту (лоту): «Проведение поисковых научно-исследовательских работ по направлению «Юридические и политические науки» в рамках мероприятия 1.3.1 Программы», проводимому в рамках мероприятия 1.3.1 «Проведение научных исследований молодыми учеными – кандидатами наук» федеральной целевой программы «Научные и научно-педагогические кадры инновационной России» на 2009 – 2013 годы, государственный контракт №111291 от 09 июня 2010 года.

Представленные автором выводы обоснованы, логичны.

Обращает на себя внимание новизна и значимость проделанного исследования.

Работа рекомендуется к опубликованию в материалах XVIII Международной научной конференции студентов, аспирантов и молодых учёных «Ломоносов».

Научный руководитель
д.ю.н., профессор


А.Е. Епифанов

Подпись: *Владимир ВЕРЬЯ*
Ведущий специалист по кадрам
М.В. Бордюк — М.В. Бордюк
1. 2011 г.

Рис. 1: рецензия