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**Tools for studying political transitions.**  
**Methodological approaches to the study of finances in Political Science**

Introduction: how can we analyse transformation, which segments do we have to analyse and how does it appear in political science?

***I. Theoretical background – the nature of transformations***

*The factors of transformation:*

1. the treatment of the *ancien régime* and the tension between de-Communization and depoliticization;
2. the process of regime legitimation and the development of a ‘civic culture’ capable of supporting new political institutions;
3. the creation of national political parties, capable of building coherent political platforms and establishing links between national and local political aspirations;
4. the development of intermediary organizations such as environmental and consumer groups, employers' organizations, and trade unions capable of providing the infrastructure for pluralist democracy;
5. the establishment of orderly relations and a balance of power between the executive and the legislature;
6. the fostering of local democracy and political involvement through the decentralization of authority and responsibility.

***II. Transformation, social structure, and economic development – at a glance***

Social structure and economic development largely influence the nature of social conflicts and political transformation. A combination of low political and economic integration and the level of consolidation results in reformist conflicts. When state intervention is low, depoliticized, abstract market forces determine capital allocation and accumulation, or, low political and economic integration may give the state the appearance of serving societal interests rather than the interests of the upper class. When consolidation is high, reformist conflicts against holders of capital may emerge. When state intervention and consolidation are low, organized groups with resources may gain economic benefits through segmented class conflict, whereas collectivities with weak solidarity and few resources remain inactive.

Social and political transformation is defined and five components of transformative processes and outcomes are presented.

Are the transformative movements systemic, sustainable, scalable, have subaltern involvement, and metrics that document change?

***III. The nature of transformations***

***1. The historical heritage – does history matter?***

In this chapter, we shall discuss the historical background of transformations in the CEE region focusing on 1989, the so-called „annus mirabilis“. The Wallerstein model on a triple structure will also be discussed. Focusing on the CEE region it is important to emphasize what kind of influence the location, the geopolitical position had. The problems of belated modernisation are also discussed in this

chapter such as the role of the state in modernisation in the different regions of Europe. Speaking about modernisation the financial conditions i.e. the lack of financial force is also essential to be discussed.

2. *The functioning of the socialist economy – the road to transformation*

In this chapter, we shall discuss the preconditions of both political and economic transformation, the changing role of the state. The principles of the socialist economy will be also discussed following the dysfunctioning of the command economies. The economic conditions will be discussed simultaneously with the geopolitical conditions of the socialist bloc with the future Visegrad regions in the centre.

3. *Models of transformation, actors of transformation – can we speak about a homogeneous region?*

In this chapter, the role of the state will be discussed in details following the different social groups, the interest groups and the appearance of the entrepreneurs. The different types of transformation models point the difference in the socialist group. Different models were developing which are examining the transformation from various perspectives. The relation between the state, the citizens and the investors will also be discussed.

4. *Redistribution crisis – from the perspective of the local population*

Continuing the analyses of the role of the actors the transformation will be discussed from the perspective of the local population. The reforms that accompanied the changes in the political and economic system also determined the status of the local population from the perspective of their everyday life and their social stability. This chapter will discuss the effects of the transformation and their impact on local society.

5. *Goeconomy of the CEE region*

Here we would like to focus on the difference between geopolitics and goeconomics. We would like to analyse the special role of the CEE region in the crossroads of the biggest economies. A separate chapter deals with the importance of this region from the perspective of the investors such as its goeconomic importance.

6. *From the bipolar system to the multipolar system – the EU integration and the opening of the markets – who benefits?*

A summary of the past two decades that determined the region. Being the part of the Euro-Atlantic integration, this region is embedded in the world economy in various ways. Nowadays there are various reflections on the success of the transformation. Summarizing these views, we are focusing on the 2008 financial and economic crisis and their impact on the entire CEE region.