

**University of Craiova
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**ABSTRACT
DOCTORATE THESIS**

Theme:

"THE STATE AND THE VOLUNTARY SERVITUDE"

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Keywords: *state, political power, the exercise of state power, domination, legitimacy, authority, voluntary servitude, filokratism, antikratism.*

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The Theme: "*The State and the Voluntary Servitude*"

This theme is unique through the modality to approach as well as the content.

The issue of study and research is situated at the interference between the sociological theory, especially the political sociology and the theory of constitutional law, in inter and trans-disciplinary context.

The Structure of the Thesis

The thesis comprises two distinct parts.

The first, a theoretical research study concerning the state, the exercise of state power, domination and voluntary servitude, brings together in five chapters, in short, a substantial problematic regarding:

1. The state and the relationships of state with society;
2. The political power, the exercise of state power, the servitude and the psychology of crowds;
3. Theories regarding the approach of concepts of domination and voluntary servitude;
4. Power and domination in the totalitarian state, the totalitarian regimes – the domination of the entire society;
5. The democratic power, the exercise of power and the dangers of democracy.

The second part, a methodical and practical study of applicative sociological research on the social impact of the exercise of state power, domination and servitude voluntary is, primarily, a *pedagogical guide* thematic and unitary on the methodology of sociological research that can serve as applicative course support of methodology of sociological research. Alternatively, the part applicative - practical takes the form of a guide, going through all stages required by the sociological research methodology oriented to the topic of the chosen theme: "*The social impact of the exercise of state power, of domination and voluntary servitude*". This part, in its turn comprises two major sides of the research study, corresponding to the two main chapters:

- I. *Theoretical and methodological considerations regarding the delimitation of the purpose and objectives of research;*
- II. *The conduct of scientific research, the processing and analysis of data of sociological investigation on the social impact of the exercise of state power, of domination and voluntary servitude.*

Motivation and Argumentation

The reason for choosing the theme is linked, implicitly, to strengthen of the democratic state, the rule of law and civil society, which should manifest itself much stronger in the relationship to power, to have a strong regulator character, imposing limitations of the domination and prerogatives of decision, often in excess, when the state makes abuse of power or leads discretionary the society. The inner impulse in finding some appropriate solutions for a better governance, reason and way on which the thesis ranges along, especially the sociological investigation, it was determined by the social and political precarious state and the visible alteration of the relationship between power and society against the background of repeated crisis of governance, of the corruption at level of the political body and of the tendencies of excessive domination by using the force to remove some manifestations of social revolt.

The Importance of Theme

The theme of study and scientific research is of strict actuality, of a particular importance. This requires to be deepened in a society which is in an unjustifiably prolonged transition to market economy. The comparative study between the present situation of the exercise of state power and extreme domination of the communist regime power, makes possible a clear distinction between the totalitarian communist regime and present democratic regime established after the events from the end of December 1989. The research results validated can be useful alike, to the actual power and society as a whole. The power can benefit from a guide of an essential political behavior and of a substantial support by harnessing the research data, if it understands to give priority and to use with skill the means of persuasion in the leading of

society in order to stimulate *the voluntary servitude*, thus ensuring *the status-quo*. The benefits offered by the proposed research project and developed in its entirety, to which have been targeted our efforts were thought and orientated to a greater extent to society, that may be able, as it proved, to decide really on its destiny and nation. The sovereignty belongs to the people and it is only delegated to a group of power for a limited time. *The voluntary servitude* is a preferable alternative for society and power, a manifestation of will, of submission accepted and understood as necessity, which stimulates a general state of social security and balance. The theme of the thesis and the research project concerning "*The social impact of the exercise of state power, of domination and voluntary servitude*" is *current* and of *perspective* for several reasons. Firstly, we must remember that the appearance of the science of sociology and implicitly of the scientific research methodology, we deal with, are linked to the birth and consolidation of *the national state*. It is hard to anticipate how can subsist the science about society and state under present conditions and especially future, as there are recorded increasingly stronger and insistent pressures on the national states, which find themselves in an obvious decline. Secondly, the content of work and results of research are subjected to the analysis academic circles and the general public in a historical and crucial moment, according to some euro-sceptic analysts, a watershed moment, in which the role the national state in the organization and the leading of society is strongly decreasing once with the successive release of sovereignty after integration in the great family of *The European Union*. The sovereign and independent state is thus emptied of content and, in time, its disappearance is inevitable. There cannot exist state without sovereignty, as there cannot exist domination without power or power without obedience. Thus, between the variables mentioned, reports of mutual interdependence are born and maintained. In case that state is deprived of fundamental power levers, of power supremacy in the interior and independence in relation to other states, the society is headed ineluctably, if not to anarchy, then to a form of extreme domination that imposes a forced submission by exclusive means of coercion and leads to the disappearance as quasi-general social manifestation, of *the voluntary servitude*. Finally, with the disappearance of the national state, the offer of society remains unaddressed and the voluntary servitude, worthless, it becomes *fatalistic*. The issue of *the rule of law*, approached in the thesis *content*, is, also, *current*, especially in the present conditions when it arises acuity, more than ever, the problem of the imperative of observing laws in equal measure by the governed, but especially by the governing. *The novelty* of theme is just given by the approaching the concepts of state, power and domination in correlation or interdependence between them and the voluntary servitude. This latest element of novelty, introduced in the structure of theory about power, can modify the orientation about how a democratic society should be understood. Punctual, we introduced new terms which would make possible a better understanding and analysis of relationship between the political power and offering society of voluntary servitude. The two important terms, being in antithesis and envisaging two different social attitudes, the one of support and attachment, even affective, towards the democratic state and the one of rejecting and opposition towards the abuses of power, in the form of the hatred and revolt against the state with excessive dictatorial or authoritarian tendencies, are *the filokratism* and its opposite, *the antikratism*. The theme, by the way of approach and content, can be a landmark or an initiation point in reconsidering or reassessing of the theories of state, power and domination, from a new sociological perspective, and perhaps, even more, with the support and contribution of the scientific community in the social and political science domain, a change of paradigm which reconciles the evolution of the state and its role with the present and future trends and decisions of the political power of globalist type. In this sense, from the beginning, the thesis author recognizes modestly that he is facing an asymmetric challenge given of the disproportion created between the limited resources and the specific needs of such theoretical, empirical and methodological research, to such an extent. From here, some uncertainty in resolving on the

whole of the proposed issues. So, we have not proposed a comprehensive approach, which is impossible to achieve, but to initiate an approach of sociological research that is desired to be continued and completed by the scientific community, requesting for its contribution. Only then, we can speak about the perspective of a paradigm shift that we really want.

General Objectives.

The research study on the exercise of state power, of domination and of voluntary servitude is particularly important both from the point of view of general sociology and especially in the perspective of the theory of political sociology. Thus, we aimed to achieve the following **general objectives**:

1. The knowledge of civic and volitional attitudes of target groups investigated, in the current political and social context, to diagnose the opportunities for supporting political class and stimulating the attachment towards the principles and directions of the political orientation of the democratic state.
2. The systematic analysis of the social capital and socio-economic human potential at the local, regional / zonal and central level in view of identifying the particularities generated by the report between the state and society, between domination and servitude, which facilitate the valuing of the innovative solutions based on the analysis of content and conclusions of the developed research project on the social impact of the exercise of state power, domination and voluntary servitude and its inclusion in an action plan of best practices that it will emanates from power and will be conducted with the direct involving of power and civil society;
3. The awareness of the necessity of implementing of an alternative to the current modality in which is understood the exercise of power by diminishing the role of the coercive factors in ensuring the social order and security and the finding of solutions for promoting of voluntary submission understood as necessity;
4. The reanalysis of situations which determine and favor the discretionary power and abuse of power, to prevent in the future the alteration of fundamental elements of the rule of law, the avoidance of any kind of corruption among the political class, the erosion of the society and the democratic state.

Specific Objectives

1. The realization of a *typology* following the collection, processing and validation of scientific research data, which to highlight comparatively the various social and volitional manifestations of the investigated subjects in relation to the state power, exercising of this, of domination and voluntary servitude;
2. The *identification of the percentage* of persons who manifest a servile social attitude of voluntary type in relation to power and of the social categories in which it is registered an attitude of potentially disobedience and orientation towards an anarchic attitude and of revolt;
3. Following the completion of the previous specific objective it seeks the cataloging and delimitation of the characteristics of volitional social manifestation of the two categories of investigated subjects oriented to *filokratism* or *antikratism*.
4. *The classification of forms*, of models of activities or social phenomena related to the exercise of power, domination and servitude and their enrollment in a graph of reciprocal interdependencies;
5. The investigation and recording as a scientific result of *the motivational social factors* that determine the voluntary servitude comparatively to the forced servitude, the attachment towards power in comparison with the anti-state attitude or possible antisocial one;
6. The measuring of the level of acceptance among the population of the implementing of *a program of alerting and public sanctioning of the power abuses* and manifestation of discretionary power in order to strengthen the rule of law and the combative role of civic attitude;

7. The identification of requirements and qualities necessary to find a *model of behavior and desirable attitude of democratic power* in relation to society and citizens.

The Presentation of Own Contributions. The thesis offers a new perspective of approach in terms of the theory of sociology general and political sociology in particular, challenging and proposing essential changes in theories consecrated as the social contract, the modern theory of conflict, the theory of sociological voluntarism and theory about state as a phenomenon of force and instrument of coercion and domination. (See Max Weber) Under the aspect of sociological research methodology, of analysis and interpretation of data, we signal the personal contribution regarding the techniques for scaling (*filokratism* and *antikratism scale*).

The originality of the thesis is given by the release of a possible new theory, the one of *voluntary servitude*, which includes, for demonstration and scientific support, and a practical application in the field of sociological methodology regarding the interdependence of some variables such as the exercise of power, the domination, the servitude, the freedom etc. From here, the innovative character of some new concepts, such as *filokratism* and *antikratism*, and new hypothesis released for the present research project and for the future researches.

The Formulation of the Hypotheses. The formulation of the main objectives of the paper are related to the formulated questions and hypotheses. Any scientific research seeks, through its finality, the confirmation of working hypotheses using as support the answers to the formulated questions in the preamble of research. In formulating hypotheses we had in mind a set of initial *unverified assumptions* belongs to common knowledge, as follows:

- a) The higher the level of domination is higher, the degree of servitude voluntary, of submission of social groups and individuals is lower. In other words, a high level of domination in the exercise of power, undergoing a course of tendency to maximum, the society responds with a degree increasingly higher of disobedience, from a minimum to a maximum of social revolt;
- b) The voluntary servitude is a manifestation of acceptance of a state of domination "bearable" within certain limits. Over a certain degree, it is born the social cohesion and solidarity against the dominating, dictatorial or totalitarian state power;
- c) The excessive domination and abuse of power are not characteristics only specific to the totalitarian, fascist or the communist regimes, where the domination becomes extreme. These can be found, under different forms, and in other types of political regimes, apparent democratic or democratic with authoritarian tendencies;
- d) The voluntary servitude is a response to the domination exercising in moderate conditions and may be a factor of balance and social stability, if the power does not abuse of this act of voluntarily will done in its favor.

Hypotheses. First, in outline of *the research project* we start from the following five hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1: If the state power is exercised dictatorially, even if it is apparently assured a popular democratic framework, then the premises favorable to the fall of regime are created, phenomenon which is reflected in the entire social system;

Hypothesis 2: If the domination in the exercise the state power is excessive and the abuse of power and the discretionary power is manifested unrestricted in power structures, then there are disrupted to the same extent the equilibrium, the social relationships and it is influenced the social progress;

Hypothesis 3: If the domination in the exercise of state power tends to record increasing values are, then the voluntary servitude, as a form of accepted and assumed submission, decreases in a proportional manner tending to zero;

Hypothesis 4: The lower the level of voluntary servitude is, the higher the instability of power mechanism is and reverse of the situation, the higher the level of servitude is, the more the stability of power and social organism increases;

Hypothesis 5: If the determinant of social will, which is the voluntary servitude, knows a regressive tendency to a minimum, then the zero point on the scale of voluntary servitude represents *the threshold of the revolt*.

The assumptions made are partly generated by *questions* inspired from common knowledge, unscientific, on which are desired a scientific confirmation well-founded theoretical but mostly practical. We are launching a series of questions and pursuing if, after the process of scientific research, these assumptions, finally, are verified by the analysis of the received responses. These *questions* are the following:

1. Is there an antagonistic relationship between state and society? Is the state manifested against the society or the society against the state? Under what conditions?

2. Is the society subject to the state voluntarily or as a result of the application of coercion means? Which is the prevailing tendency?

3. Which is the level, the dynamics and impacts of the exercise of state power, domination and servitude voluntary in today's society, considered of the rule of law?

4. Which is the role of voluntary servitude in influencing the dominant vector and its disempowered?

5. Can the severe tendency of diminishing of voluntary servitude and not granting by the state power of the proper importance to this form of submission in the relationship of domination generate and give rise the social revolt?

The chain of deductions and inter - conditionalities between *domination* and *voluntary servitude* in the present causal analysis knows the following **structure**:

1. Every society leading by state is stratified;

2. The stratification of society is a result of a dichotomous equation, the permanence of existence of an dominant elite, holder of power, on the one hand and the dominated society, on the other hand;

3. The servitude is a result of the exercise of state power and domination. It can be determined by coercion, in which we distinguish "*the forced servitude*" or an act of individual will and/or of group which can be influenced by power, in which case the submission towards the power takes the form of voluntary servitude;

4. When the domination in exercising of state power is excessive and the abuse of power and discretionary power are manifested in the unrestricted power structures, are disturbed to the same extent the equilibrium, the social relationships and the social progress;

5. If the state power is exercised dictatorially, are created the premises of the collapse of power organism, phenomenon that have repercussions in the entire social system;

6. When the domination in the exercise of state power tends to record increasing values, the voluntary servitude, as a form of accepted submission decreases in a proportional manner tending to zero;

7. The voluntary servitude is at the same time a determinant and a determined of the social will and the social will is related to the dynamics of voluntary servitude;

8. When the voluntary servitude knows a regressive tendency to a minimum, then the *zero* point on the scale of voluntary servitude represents *the threshold of the revolt*.

The investigation of opinion is accomplished on the basis of a questionnaire focused on the theme of research project concerning the social impact of the exercise of power, domination and servitude voluntary. It is pursuing from the beginning the testing of the level of knowledge as regards the exercise of state power, the ability to understand, analysis and synthesis of the respondents regarding the important role that can play the social manifestation of voluntary servitude in relation to the domination in the exercise of power state.

The opinion questionnaire aims to provide the highest part of the requested information and which processed and analyzed to lead to validated results and to confirm finally the hypotheses from the beginning of the research project. Such a questionnaire makes the radiography of the

unseen part of a society that apparently is balanced, peaceful and subjected to power. The hypotheses are only opinions belonging to the common knowledge. The final data, however, are presented as scientific truths and make it possible a reconsideration of the known theories and even a possible paradigm shift.

The sampling or *the selection* represents a set of operations by which, from the totality of population targeted by research, it is chosen a part called *sample* which will be directly subject to investigation. The choice was made such a way that, by means of this reduced study, to obtain conclusions with general validation, namely giving account into the characteristics of the entire universe of individuals constituents of the population. The sampling in the present project is based on methodology and public data provided by the statistical institutions specializing in general statistical surveys, at national level. In this sense, I used *the method of the sampling aliquots* using the data published by *The National Statistics Institute* regarding the results of the *Census of the population and housing* from 2011 from which I have used the information concerning the population structure, in percentage, with reference to the national level structured on genders, urban / rural, marital status (married, unmarried, divorced, widowed), the distribution by age groups and education.

Sample. Reported to the size of the sample, fixed at 500 persons, randomly chosen in the field, we had in mind to ensure the representativeness by calculating an appropriate percentage of each category included by the sample.

The target group is represented by a segment of the population, chosen at random, comprised between 18-75 years, of both genders, urban and rural, proportionally, regardless of category or social class, structured on three age categories [young (18-35), adults (36-55) and elderly (56-75)] and 3 types of studies (secondary school, high school /middle, superior studies).

The Research Results

The Research Data Processing, the Analysis, the Explanation and the Interpretation of Results

The data processing is a final operation of scientific research activity particularly important, a pursued result of efforts of the empirical research itself.

This objective presupposes the systematization and classification of data, the research data processing and, ultimately, the explanation and interpreting the results. With the completion of resulting data entry from the empirical research, by social investigation based on questionnaire and observation, there were created the favorable conditions for summing up the results and their comparison using the most modern means and computer programs, what makes work easier and ensures the precision and safe on which the computerized calculation formulas give it.

CONCLUSIONS

The structured presentation of the research results is found in the *Excel* file, on the electronic support (CD) and attached to this thesis. The formed graphics, in this sense, make it possible a better understanding and presentation of the conclusions arising from the interpretation of data for every of the variables introduced and applied through the questionnaire of opinion.

This approach of the final of the thesis, in which are included and the conclusions, is modern and enables a public presentation, on slides, in the *Power Point* program. This does not exempt us to make some general appreciations regarding the manner in which the proposed objectives of the research project were fulfilled or not, and especially how. We will not resume the set of assumptions, questions and hypotheses, for lack of space, but we will analyze if they were confirmed at the end of the research. From the correlation between the independent and dependent experimental variables, using *the specific methods of interpretation of research data* (comparative and interpretative methods) resulted in the following *conclusions*:

- The higher the level of *domination* is, the lower the level of *voluntary servitude* is ;

- At a high level of *domination*, the society responds with a high degree of disobedience and social revolt;
- *The voluntary servitude* is a manifestation of acceptance of a state of domination "bearable" within certain limits;
- *The excessive domination* and repressive power system are specific only to totalitarian regimes;
- In the regimes called democratic there may be encountered, in various forms, undesirable manifestations related to *the abuse of power* and the exercise of power discretionary;
- If the domination in the exercise of state power becomes unbearable and the abuse of power and discretionary power is freely manifested in the power structures, then there are *disturbed* to the same extent *social relationships and social progress*;
- The voluntary servitude can be a factor of balance and social stability, if the power does not abuse of this *act of voluntarily will* made in its favor;
- If the domination in the exercise of state tends to record increasing values, then *the voluntary servitude decreased in proportion*, tending towards zero;
- The higher the voluntary servitude level is reduced, the higher the power mechanism instability is, and reverse of the situation, the higher the consented servitude level is, the higher the power and social system stability increases;
- If the manifestation of voluntary servitude knows a regressive tendency towards minimum, then, *the zero point on the scale of voluntary servitude represents the threshold of the revolt.*

To the following questions the share of answers leans towards "Yes" or "No", thus:

1. Is there an antagonistic relationship between state and society? *Yes, To a small extent.*
2. Does the state manifest against the society or the society against the state? *Yes* in the first case and *Not* in the second case. The situations are rare in the second case (mass revolts, revolutions, etc.)
3. Which is the level, the dynamics and impact of exercising of state power, domination and servitude voluntary in the current society? Regarding *the voluntary submission* and *unconditional subjection to state power*, 64% of respondents answered that they are subject to the state power voluntarily and unconditionally.

The received answers to this closed question give us a sure indication concerning the manner of the population submission in the current democratic regime and the attachment towards the power (*filokratism*).

4. What is the role of voluntary servitude in influencing the dominant vector and its disempowered ? To the question (VAR 00012), 58% of those surveyed responded that the servitude, as a way of manifestation, is a voluntary one and that the role of voluntary servitude is a very important one in disempowered the tendency of power domination.

General Conclusion

Romania is a democratic state in which *the level of dominion* is medium and in which the rights and liberties of the citizens are respected. To the question CHE 024 (VAR 00024) *Do you consider yourself a free man?* One answered "Yes" 82% of respondents. The opinion survey based on questionnaire was validated using the data collected and processed on a representative sample of the population, chosen proportionally on share parts.

The initiated social investigation with the theme: "*The Social Impact of the Exercise of State Power, Domination and Voluntary Servitude*" opens new perspectives of deepening and research.

