



**Henrieta Anișoara Șerban,**  
**Cristian-Ion Popa (coord.),**  
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This volume entitled *Republican Political Philosophy. Modern and Contemporary Landmarks* is a collective work that capitalizes the results of the research program "The Idea of Republic in Modern and Contemporary Political Philosophy" led by the researchers directed by Scientific Researcher I, Ion Goian, PhD at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations (2011-2013).

The volume consists of the three parts: Historical landmarks, Contemporary approaches of republicanism and Documentary. The theoretical background of this republicanism is capitalized in the contemporary studies that can be considered a republican revival of the ancient political ideas of the Greek city and the Roman republic, developed by the thinkers of Italian Renaissance, of the thinkers of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and by the "founding fathers" of the USA.

"Historical Landmarks" debuts with the study "Machiavelli and the Classical Republicanism: Contemporary Interpretations," by Ion Goian who interprets that Machiavelli's represent the origin of modern republicanism. Also, English republican thinkers (James Harrington, John Milton or Algernon Sidney) are crucial to the studies of civic republicanism, centered on Machiavelli and the liberalism of John Locke contributing the basic ideas of the American republic. "American Republicanism – Political History and Philosophy" by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban further analyzes the English liberal democratic and republican

theoretical sources welded into the American Constitution and democracy, emphasizing republican history, events and mechanisms in their fascinating inter-relation. The next study, „Republican Ideas in Contemporary Political Philosophy” of Viorella Manolache approaches various dimensions of modern and contemporary republican theory, within a complex and in-depth analysis, not avoiding the analyses of republican practices, mainly in Europe and in Romania.

Enache Tuşa entitles his substantial contribution “Projects and Visions of the Republican Form of Government in Romanian Society” and approaches the particular republican itinerary of ideas and institutions in Romania. Conducted since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and until today, the investigation points to a specific quest of accustoming to the European republican path, which at times valued the pre-modern elements and at times went around them, seen as obstacle elements, which did not favour the implementation of modern elements such as: the Roman law, the civil relations, the citizens’ rights, etc. a glorious republican moment was marked by the reforms carried along by the scholars and legislators around Alexandru Ioan Cuza.

Part II, “Contemporary Approaches of Republicanism”, starts by “Neorepublican Public Philosophy” by Cristian-Ion Popa, a study dedicated to the interpretation of the *public policies* built around social causes answering to the entitlements of certain groups and their relation to liberalism or/and democratism and social-democracy.

“The Compatibility of the Republican Theory of Pettit with Rawlsian Liberalism” by Sari Florescu approaches the theories of *freedom as non-domination* and *justice as fairness* from the two philosophers analyzed. The author investigates the extent of the compatibilities of these two, and the extent of their complementarities. The research also approaches the characteristics of a space of “contestatory democracy” (Philip Pettit) open by republican incentives, and becoming a “cooperative venture for mutual advantage” (John Rawls) of central importance for liberal democracy, too.

“American Republicanism: several conceptual landmarks” by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban investigates the American philosophic republicanism in its characteristic elements. Is nowadays republicanism the heritor of the pluralist and patriotic American republicanism of the Fore Fathers? The study identifies the fundamental republican political values still valuable and discussed by present-day American thinkers.

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The third part, “Documentary,” is composed of two interesting studies of Philip Pettit and Quentin Skinner, in translation. Philip Pettit discusses the ideal of freedom as non-domination and its importance within the philosophical debates. Quentin Skinner also interprets the republican perspective on freedom, as to be free is not to be dominated and to live in a free state is to be un-dominated neither by inner institutions or individual nor by external forces, or corporations, etc.

“Republicanism: One More Inquiry into the Coherence of a Concept,” is an interview with William Stearns, American theoretician specialized in political culture, who approaches republicanism from a philosophical, discursive and symbolical perspective, with interest for civic participation and communitarian cohesion, republican values, virtuous civism, and most importantly, freedom.

The “Succinct Glossary of Main Personalities, Concepts and Events of Republicanism,” by Henrieta Anișoara Șerban, is actually quite sizable, a useful instrument, identifying the main elements for the study of republicanism. It synthesizes them with a clear view over the ensemble of the topic, revealing the complexity of the republican issues.

This substantial work succeeds to cover a very important topic of contemporary political philosophy with relevance for the Romanian political philosophical debates and for the democratic practice, alike.

*Alexandra Vasile*