

Assessing the impact of general culture on the robustness and strength of the Rule of Law

Gajduschek Gyorgy

Corvinus University of Budapest, Dept. of Public Policy and Management, Faculty of Economics, Budapest, Hungary

Abstract: Law plays a crucial role in modern governments, particularly in public administration. It regulates the structure, functioning (especially administrative procedures), and personnel arrangements. In Europe, law has historically provided the disciplinary framework within which public administration is discussed and developed. Therefore, law and the Rule of Law are fundamental to the effective functioning of public administration. The institutional foundations of the Rule of Law (RoL) system, particularly in East-Central Europe but also globally, appear to be under threat from ongoing political processes. This reality has drawn the attention of both laypersons and scholars to the social conditions that may either support or undermine the effective functioning of the RoL.

In this paper, we argue that culture, understood in a cultural anthropological sense, is a key factor in determining the effectiveness of RoL institutions. Specifically, we aim to address two main questions: First, is there empirical evidence that national culture is a critical social context influencing the strength or quality of the RoL? Second, which cultural dimensions (e.g., collectivism vs. individualism) show a strong relationship with the robustness of the RoL?

Methodology:

Our research employs statistical analysis to examine the relationship between indicators of national culture and the RoL. We utilize various models of national culture, drawing on the frameworks developed by Hofstede, Schwartz, Inglehart, Welzel, and others. For measuring the RoL, we use the overall Rule of Law Index from the World Justice Project (WJP) as well as specific subindexes constructed by the author based on selected items from the WJP's 43-item dataset.