Assessing the Impact Various Cultural Variables on the Robustness and Strength of the Rule of Law

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Abstract: Law plays a crucial role in modern governance, particularly in public administration. It regulates administrative structures, procedures, and personnel arrangements. In Europe, law has historically provided the disciplinary framework within which public administration has been conceptualized and developed. Accordingly, law—and the Rule of Law (RoL) in particular—constitutes a fundamental pillar of effective public administration.

The institutional foundations of the Rule of Law, especially in East-Central Europe but also globally, appear to be under increasing pressure from ongoing political processes. This situation has drawn the attention of both scholars and the general public to the social conditions that may either support or undermine the effective functioning of the RoL.

In a paper presented last year, I argued—hopefully convincingly—that culture, understood in the anthropological sense, is a key determinant of the effectiveness of RoL institutions. The present paper seeks to identify the elements of national culture that may foster or hinder the development of robust RoL institutions, as well as those that show no statistically significant relationship.

Methodology

This study employs statistical analysis to examine the relationship between indicators of national culture and the Rule of Law. Several models of national culture are used, drawing on the frameworks developed by Hofstede, Schwartz, Inglehart, Welzel, and others. The overall Rule of Law Index from the World Justice Project (WJP) serves as the principal measure of the RoL, complemented by specific subindexes constructed by the author based on selected items from the WJP's 43-item dataset.