

- R E P O R T -

POLITICAL TRANSITIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN EUROPE¹

The foundation Tres Culturas and the University of Jaén organized the seminar "Transiciones Políticas y Reformas Constitucionales en Europa" (Political transitions and Constitutional Reforms in Europe) on May 8th and 9th at the University of Jaén under the supervision of Gerardo Ruiz-Rico, Professor of Constitutional Law.

The conferences of this International Meeting aimed to offer a political and legal-based analysis of the political transitions phenomena and their repercussions in the processes of constitutional reforms that have occurred in Europe.



Political transitions and Constitutional Reforms in Europe, University of Jaén

The meeting's first perspective focused on the analysis of recent transitions in Eastern Europe towards democratic political models, and the resulting transforming impact on these countries' political and constitutional structures. Most of these states have adapted their political system to the "western" referential model in order to join the European Union. Many of these political and constitutional processes have been successful, though some countries are still considered to be in a "transition" stage. The presenters were Gerardo Ruiz-Rico Ruiz (University of Jaén), Lucio Pegoraro (University of Bologna), Luca Mezzetti (University of Bologna), Stevan Lilic (University of Belgrade) and Rainer Arnold (University of Regensburg).

Secondly, "indirect" or implicit political transitions were examined. These projects of constitutional reforms have been supported by some of the most traditional European democracies (Italy, Germany, France, Great Britain, Belgium). The presenters were Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz (Pompeu Barcelona University), Javier Garcia Roca (Complutense University), Cesar Aguado Renedo (Autonoma University of Madrid), Antonio Porras Nadales (University of Seville) and Miguel Revenga Sanchez (University of Cadiz). Ana M. Carmona Contreras (University of Seville) also spoke at this session.

The Meeting devoted its final session to discussing the Spanish transition on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its 1978 Constitution. The contribution of this constitutional text to the establishment of a democracy in Spain - in the spheres of rights acknowledgement and the parliamentary monarchy - was analyzed. But at the same time, it was necessary to emphasize the "unfinished" aspect of this transitional process, as the territorial model seems to indicate. In this sense, new schemes of constitutional reform proposed by the different political parties were discussed. The presenters included Jorge Lozano Miralles (University of Jaén), Guerino D'Ignazio (University of Calabria), Itziar Gomez Fernandez (Carlos III University), Fulvio Pastore (University of Cassino) and Marco Plutino (University of Cassino). Additional speakers included Alfredo Contieri (University of Cassino) and Juan Jose Ruiz Ruiz (University of Jaén).

¹ Report made by Katarina Jozic.