

Respect of a Career and Europe

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Review of the book entitled “*Domi esse et in Europa et in mundo – Ünnepi tanulmányok a 70 éves Halmai Péter tiszteletére*” by Gábor Kutasi (ed.)

The book entitled “*Domi esse et in Europa et in mundo*” is a monumental academic work, which was written in honor of the 70th anniversary of Péter Halmai. Published by Ludovika University Press and organized by the Ludovika University of Public Service, the volume pays tribute to the work of one of the determining figures in contemporary Hungarian and international economics. The volume reflects the career establishing a school of new thoughts of Péter Halmai, Széchenyi Prize-winning economist, and full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, as well as the president of the 9th class of the HAS. This volume includes writings by domestic and international scientists with professional reputations who pay tribute to Professor Halmai’s contributions to economics, academic teaching activities, and inspiring personality.

Just as his celebrated career covers a wide spectrum, this is also typical of the book’s subject matter. It covers European integration, economic development, as well as economic and legal research. Prominent authors such as János Martonyi, Tibor Palánkai, Örs Szathmáry, László Csaba, Lajos Vékás and many others contribute to the volume, to name just a few of the academicians.

One of the most important messages of the book is the cohesion of the scientific community and the importance of knowledge-sharing. These studies mirror Péter Halmai’s research character: a committed attitude towards in-depth professional research and innovative thinking. The writings analyze the challenges of European economic integration and economic policy not only at a theoretical level but also provide practical aspects for future economic and political decision-makers.

The collaboration of the authors’ community has invoked a book that presents Professor Halmai’s thoughts and impacts on economic integration, macroeconomics, and European economic policy as a scientific mosaic. These studies focus on three main themes: integration, growth, and reform. These chapters examine key issues such as the future of European economic and political integration, challenges of the

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macroeconomic stability, as well as the reform efforts of modern economics and the legal system.

In the first part, studies on integration take stock of the main aspects of European Union integration, its legal and economic aspects. János Martonyi, Tibor Palánkai and István P. Székely is particularly valuable in that they place the current and future possibilities of EU reforms in a historical context, responding to the relevant works of Péter Halmai. Péter Halmai paid special attention to the coordination of fiscal and monetary policies, structural reforms, and future challenges for the EU in his work examining different dimensions of European economic integration, including the functioning of the EMU, new forms of economic governance, Member State integration strategies, and the challenges of catching up (Halmai, 2020; Halmai, 2020a; Halmai, 2019c; Halmai, 2019b).

The part on economic growth covers macroeconomic trends, challenges of the Eurozone, and global economic challenges. The studies of István Magas and Julius Horváth are outstanding in that they analyze the slowdown of the world economy and the long-term effects of inflation. Halmai previously pointed out that the EU's growth crisis stems from deep structural problems and can only be addressed sustainably through targeted reforms, improving competitiveness, and stimulating innovation. Strengthening convergence and deepening European integration are key factors in future growth prospects (Halmai, 2014; Halmai, 2015; Halmai, 2019a).

The chapter on reforms provides a detailed picture of the development opportunities of Hungarian, international economic, and legal systems. Lajos Vékás, Béla Kádár, and Árpád Kovács opened up important perspectives in the analysis of the relationship between legislation and economic policy. Regarding reforms, Péter Halmai's theses build on his findings on the topic of integration and growth since the reforms of the Economic and Monetary Union and the problems of the European growth model are closely related. According to him, it is essential for the EU to develop an economic governance structure that guarantees not merely stability, but also contributes to the long-term maintenance of competitiveness and growth. Furthermore, his research highlights that the completion of the EMU and the development of a new growth model require a series of political and economic reforms that can be achieved by deepening European integration (Halmai, 2017; Halmai, 2018a).

One of the greatest values of the volume is that it is not merely a prosaic, academic collection, but also a kind of tribute to a researcher and teacher who has shaped and continues to shape the thinking of generations. Péter Halmai's work, which encompasses research on European economic integration and macroeconomic strategies, means something not merely to professionals, but also to all of those who are interested in current global economic trends.

As mentioned in the introduction, the book is organized into three main themes: integration, growth, and reform. The theoretical and practical challenges of European integration, issues of economic growth and convergence, and legal and economic reforms all play a central role. Topics such as the stability of the Eurozone, the development paths of the Hungarian economy, and the economic aspects of sustainability and climate change are current and relevant issues for science and policy.

Following Péter Halmai on the European path

We can read outstanding studies about the European integration, the economic development, and the institutional reforms by well-known authors, such as Tibor Palánkai and István P. Székely, László Csaba, László Andor, or Péter Gottfried. Each of the authors contributes to a deeper understanding of European Union processes from a unique perspective while providing readers with professionally high-quality analyses. This is worth highlighting in a few studies. Professor Tibor Palánkai, the Hungarian father of integration economics, analyzed the development and future reforms of European integration. His writing reflects the challenges of globalization and the European Economic Union. The author, who stands in favor of deepening, formulates particularly important insights into the need for closer economic and political cooperation. Benczes and Kollárik provide a theoretical background for integration debates, placing integration processes in the neofunctionalist approach. Their study examined the historical and current processes of deepening integration in the context of political and economic sciences. This approach is echoed in László Andor's writing, which examines the development of the Eurozone and the effects of the Maastricht Treaty from a profound historical perspective, allowing the processes and factors of European economic cooperation to become understandable.

The institutional approach also holds its place in the integration chapter. István P. Székely focuses on the development directions of European institutions and shows how structural changes related to EU membership contribute to the economic convergence of the region. He emphatically discussed the connections between institutional reforms and sustainable development. László Csaba examines the future possibilities of integration, with particular regard to the role of the eurozone and the institutional reforms of the EU. He explores in detail what he considers acute economic challenges and the EU's room for maneuver in relation to them. Dóra Györfly examines the connections between the financial and political stability of the eurozone. Her detailed analysis clearly shows the impact of the introduction of the Euro on the political and economic systems of EU member states. Péter Gottfried's work examines the future of EU fiscal policy and the role of recovery funds. The author's precise reasoning and data-driven approach highlight the role of EU financial mechanisms in maintaining economic stability.

Each of the studies mentioned and the others included in the book is a valuable contribution to academic discourse on European integration. The authors present current and future challenges with a professional and structured argument while also offering constructive suggestions for solutions. Their work can be recommended to researchers and policymakers.

The eternal challenge of economists: growth

In the field of economic growth, inflation dynamics and convergence, the studies written by István Kónya, István Magas, Julius Horváth, András Balatoni, László Szerb, András Virág Barnabás-Kolok, Eszter Bese-Szabó, Gyula Pleschinger, Előd Takáts, György Csáki,

Imre Lengyel, Ákos Péter Bod and Beáta Farkas provide an in-depth analysis of domestic and international economic trends. The book discusses not merely new approaches to theoretical economics, but also draws specific economic policy conclusions.

István Kónya examined the dynamics of Hungarian economic convergence and highlighted the problem of the middle-income trap. The author argues that the development path of the Hungarian economy is a long-distance run, which can be further accelerated with appropriate economic policy tools. István Magas examined the relationship between the global economic slowdown and inflationary pressure. He highlights stagflation risks and their possible consequences for international and domestic economies. This study is particularly relevant in light of global macroeconomic uncertainties. As a reply, Gyula Pleschinger's study analyzes the relationship between inflationary pressure and fiscal-monetary policy measures. He highlights the importance of the balance between the policies of central bank and the fiscal government in maintaining macroeconomic stability. Almost complementing all above, András Balatoni analyzes the supply-demand relations and trends of economic cycles in detail. He paid special attention to the determinants of the long-term growth potential, highlighting the role of productivity. Barnabás Virág and his colleagues discuss the challenges and opportunities of European economic convergence in a changing global economic environment. Their study offers an analysis of the prospects of Hungarian and regional economies, in light of modern economic trends.

Other authors have focused on one or other specific area of growth. Julius Horváth traces the historical development of Central European economic thought and shows how researchers from the region have contributed to the development of modern economics and how the region's thinking fits into the Western European mainstream. László Szerb examines the development of the digital entrepreneurial ecosystem in Central and Eastern European countries. His detailed analysis highlights the role of innovation and entrepreneurial environment in promoting economic convergence. Előd Takáts, György Csáki and Beáta Farkas contribute to the interpretation of the Central European economic situation in their separate studies by analyzing sustainable development, food security and the German growth model.

The authors of this volume provide an extremely thorough analysis of the key issues of Hungarian and Central European economic development, the open economic challenges of which the editor of the volume has already dealt with (Kutasi, 2018). The theoretical depth and practical relevance of these studies make the volume particularly valuable for both the economics profession and policymakers. The authors' argument is compelling and the conclusions provide useful guidance for shaping the future of the economy.

The dispute on the economics of reform

The leading figures of contemporary Hungarian economics have undertaken to comment on the practical challenges of the present era in the field of economic reform in the field of economic reform. Among others, Béla Kádár, Árpád Kovács,

Katalin Botos, Gusztáv Báger, and Gyula Vastag are among the authors of the topic. Chapters written in connection with the reform are also excellent examples of an in-depth, interdisciplinary approach to economic thinking. The papers not merely contribute to the understanding of economic processes but also provide guidance for decision-makers and the professional community to develop sustainable and competitive economic policy strategies.

Among many other authors, for example, Béla Kádár writes about the turbulent century of the Hungarian economy, providing a comprehensive analysis of the historical development of the country's economy and presenting its structural changes and adaptation pressures. Kádár's historical perspective contributes to the soundness of economic policy decisions. Árpád Kovács formulated novel ideas in the fields of economic regulation and institutional reform. He highlights the connections between state involvement and sustainable economic policy, which are particularly valuable for the development of future economic strategies.

Sándor Kerekes raises one of the most important economic challenges of our time in the book, highlighting the decisive role of marginality and uncertainty. He analyzed the economic connections between sustainable development and the need for an ecological approach in economic decision-making in detail.

Katalin Botos sheds light on the challenges and instabilities of global financial systems. Her study is particularly relevant in times of financial crisis and is a valuable contribution to the economic policy discourse.

Gusztáv Báger's study examining the role and impact of the Fundamental Law on public finances analyzes the relationship between fiscal policy and legal frameworks. His writing clarifies that the transparency and stability of the regulatory environment are key factors for sustainable public finances. József Berács's study on the reform efforts of the European Higher Education Area and their impact on Hungary is extremely informative, especially from the perspective of linking education and the labor market. His analysis helps us understand how higher education systems can contribute to economic competitiveness. Gyula Vastag examines a significant problem of the scientific community, the reliability of research results and the phenomenon of "*Q-hacking*" in his article "*Iván Gorcsev's Nobel Prize*". His critical approach and suggestions for improving the quality of research are valuable to the scientific world.

Linkages to jurisprudence

Péter Halmai also worked in the field of law, so it is no wonder that many legal scholars have also willingly undertaken to respond to his enormous oeuvre, including János Martonyi, Gábor Hamza, Lajos Vékás, György Kiss, András Földi, László Kecskés, Réka Varga, András Patyi and Norbert Kis. The authors include influential experts who not only enrich the scientific community with their work but also contribute to the everyday practice of lawmaking and public administration.

János Martonyi's study analyzes the public law and economic aspects of European integration, connecting it to global challenges. György Kiss provides an

excellent analysis of the legal foundations of effective employment in the field of labor law, which also includes practical solutions. Lajos Vékás analyzes the current challenges of civil law, presenting its application possibilities in the rapidly changing legal environment. His study also outlined future directions for codification. Gábor Hamza's study examines the development of Roman law and European private law, providing a unique insight into legal historical processes. His work precisely analyses the evolution of legal institutions, highlighting their relevance today. András Földi analyzed the Roman legal foundations of the retroactive effect of laws, which is particularly important for contemporary legislation and law enforcement. In addition to its scientific thoroughness, his work is extremely readable and easy to understand. László Kecskés examines the development of Scottish law, providing insight into the intertwining of continental and Anglo-Saxon legal traditions. His study can serve as an important reference point in the field of international legal comparison. Réka Varga's work examines international legal aspects, paying particular attention to the challenges of European integration and legal harmonization. András Patyi, with his systematic examination of administrative tasks and functions, significantly contributed to the efficient operation of modern public administration. His study is thought-provoking, and highlights specific practical aspects. Norbert Kis's essays analyzing public law dilemmas are thought-provoking and critically examine the dynamics of legislation and public administration. Volume is a representative achievement in the field of Hungarian legal science. The authors' work can be used with great benefit not only in an academic environment, but also in practical legislation and legal applications.

In conclusion, it can be said that the volume provides unique insights into the current trends in Hungarian economic thinking and contributes to the development of the scientific field. The volume of studies is an outstanding professional and scientific collection that provides in-depth analyses on diverse and relevant topics, contributing to the development of economic, legal, and social science discourses. It is impossible to praise all seventy-one studies, so it must be stated comprehensively that the authors of the volume are recognized researchers and experts who discuss the most important challenges and opportunities in their own fields. The studies mentioned alone indicate that the authors of the volume represent a high standard in the domestic economic literature. Their work contributes innovative ideas to a better understanding of the economic and social processes.

Economic studies include works dealing with key issues, such as the dynamics of European integration, Central European development models, and the sustainability of financial stability. Legal writings analyze the development of public administrative systems, the issue of the retroactive effect of legislation, and the legal foundations of effective employment. Public law dilemmas and international legal relations have also been addressed, contributing to the development of modern legal interpretation. Another important aspect of volume is the social science approach, which examines the behavioral patterns of employees and consumers as well as the effects of market transformation. The analysis of public and economic policy issues can help decision-makers develop long-term strategies.

The study volume is not only a scholarly tribute to Péter Halmai's oeuvre but also a publication that provides rich insight into current socio-economic challenges and opportunities. The interdisciplinary approach, deep analyses, and practical conclusions make this study valuable for all professionals and interested parties. ■

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