

Credit and levy
(Social Psychology of the
Transition to Democracy, Pluralism
and Market Economy in Hungary
between 1990-2007)

Gyorgy Csepeli

Budapest, June 29, 2007

Introduction to Hungarian National Character Studies

- „Szalmaláng” – actor’s perspective (struggle, fall, new beginning)
- „Patópál” – observer’s perspective (waiting, passive resistance, survival)
- „Széthúzás” – dualism (interiorization of the Other, inner conflict, discrepant identity)
- „Balsors” vs. „sült galambra várás” – nonlinear logic (external attribution, miracle, destiny)

Sándor Karácsony

Two ways of Self-presentation

<u>Levy</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Distrust	Trust
Culture of complaint	Pride
Tax evasion	Tax paying
Envy	Empathy
Zero sum games	Non zero sum games
Anti-capitalism (state)	Pro-capitalism (market)
Scapegoating	Responsibility
Closed mind	Open mind
Rule of morals	Rule of law

István Széchenyi

*Dimensions of Transition from State
Socialism to Pluralist Democracy and
Market Economy*

Politics

- institutions
- laws

Economy

- market
- competition
- property (privatization)

Culture

- pluralism
- co-existence of differences

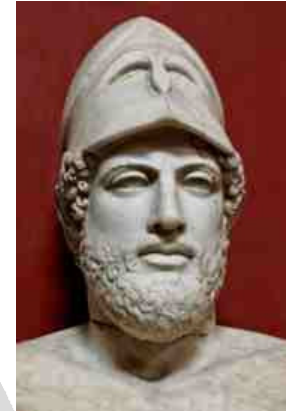
Mind

- tolerance
- autonomy
- trust

Trap of the missing hero

- Dysfunctional democratic institution
- Democracy without democrats
- Competition without competitors
- „Kultur“ without „Culture“
- „Res publica“ without „Publica“
- Desinformed citizen

Informed citizen



- Decision support
- Competence
- Responsibility
- Openness (anti-dogmatism, anti-ethnocentrism)
- Citizen's awareness
- Civic society (deliberation, participation)

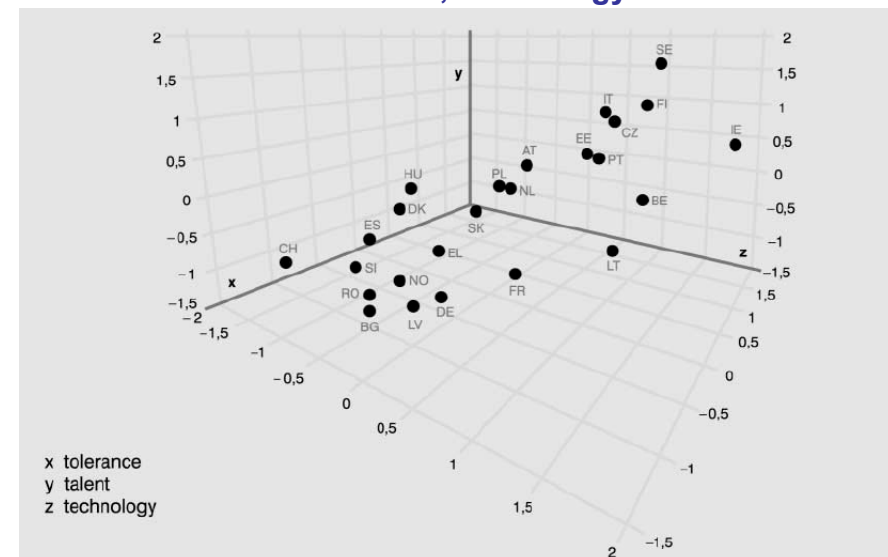
Let me say that our system of government does not copy the institutions of our neighbours. It is more the case of our being a model to others, than of our imitating anyone else. Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law, when it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses. No one, so long as he has it in him to be of service of the state, is kept in political obscurity because of poverty. And, just as our political life is free and open, so is our day-to-day life in our relations with each other."

Pericles' Funeral Oration (In Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War. Book II. § 37)

New Community

- Wiki knowledge (wiki democracy)
- Community of experience
 - lifestyle
 - habit
 - network (small world in the global space)
- The rise of the creative class
 - talent
 - tolerance
 - technology

The spatial position of each country along the dimensions of the indexes of talent, technology and tolerance





*Thank you for your
attention!*

www.csepeli.hu