

ANTI TOTALITARIAN REVOLUTIONS FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. POWER TRANSFER

Flavius-Cristian MĂRCĂU¹

ABSTRACT

HOW TO PASS POWER FROM THE 1989 FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IS NOT COMMON AMONG THE SIX COUNTRIES WHO PASSED THROUGH ANTITOTALITARIAN REVOLUTION. THUS, WE INTEND TO ANALYZE THE PROCESS BY WHICH POWER WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE SINGLE PARTY GROUPS FORMED IN DEMOCRATIZATION. WE WILL ALSO NOTICE THAT NOT ALL STATES HAVE TARGETED THE SAME MODE OF TRANSFER OF POWER, CONSIDERING THAT THE ANTI-TOTALITARIAN REVOLUTIONS, BUT ALSO MEASURES THE CHANGE IN THE STATE HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT.

KEYWORDS: REVOLUTION, 1989, POWER TRANSFER , DEMOCRATIZATION, COMMUNIST , POST-COMMUNISM.

Decomunized States in Central and Eastern Europe went through antitotalitarian revolution in 1989 and headed to democracy. But we mention that these revolutions, first of all, have not enjoyed a heterogeneous and in the second, the transfer of power, aspect covered in this study, known differences among decomunized states .

Before continuing our exposure, we want to define a definition of the *transfer of power*, with which we will work further. Thus, the acceptance period, *transfer of power* can mean *the process of moving power from one structure to another, from one person to another or from one government to another*. However, our attention is focused on this concept of trapped takeover, and transfer by the totalitarian regime, through Communist Party, to pro-democracy groups from decomunized states.

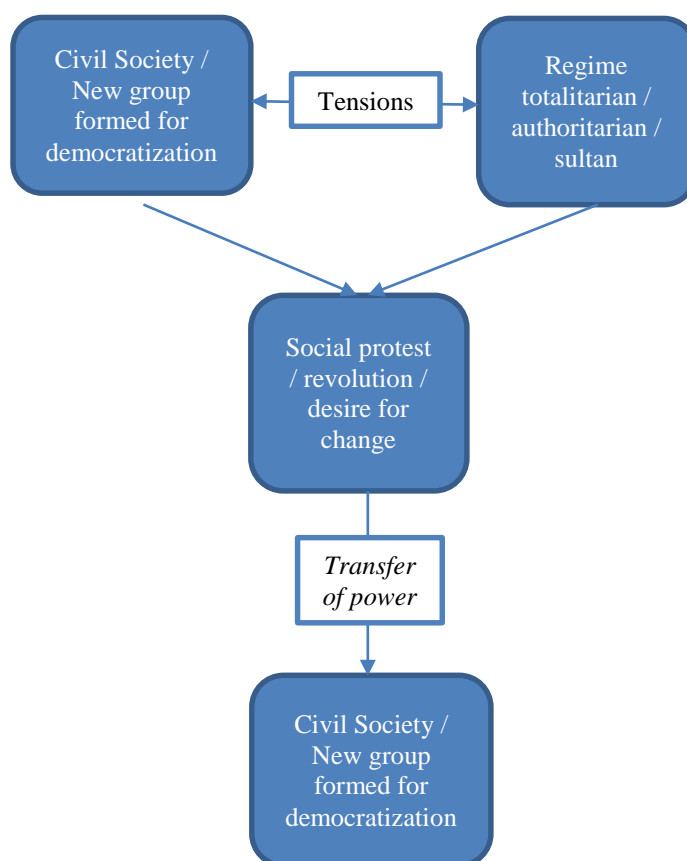
1989 can be understood as the year of *societies renewal* , perceived as a struggle between the old and new leaders between totalitarianism and democracy-building desire. This year could see a chain of events - understood as an interrelation - between the USSR and Central and Eastern Europe. Timothy Garton Ash commented in an absolutely inspired when he raised revolutions anti-totalitarian in Central and Eastern Europe, pointing out that they were based on the number ten: ten years in Poland, ten months Hungary, ten weeks Czechoslovakia ten days RD Germany and ten hours Romania.²

¹ Research Assis, Research Institute of Development, University "Constantin Brancuși" of Târgu-Jiu, Romania; Phd. C., Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, flaviusmarcau@yahoo.com

² See Flavius Cristian Marcau, "Short analysis of the fall of Communist Regimes in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989 and the domino effect" in *Astra Salvensis*, An III, Nr. 5, 2015, 159-164

Recent history has shown us that not all post-totalitarian states of the former Soviet bloc have enjoyed a smooth transfer of power, occurred on the model *Communist Party - Civil Society - Group created to democratize the state*. The transfer is different from state to state, a sign that track a particular typology of obtaining power. We observe along our approach, the process of change has worked on more coordinated, some of which are common in all states.

But earlier study we defined the concept of *power transfer*, but without explaining how it can be done. I missed this very fact that the Member shows significant features when it comes to extreme situations (like revolutions). This can be easily seen if we look at how civil society action during the events of 1989. In this sense, in theory can be described (idealistic) the transfer of power, before presenting the case of six former Soviet bloc states. Thus :

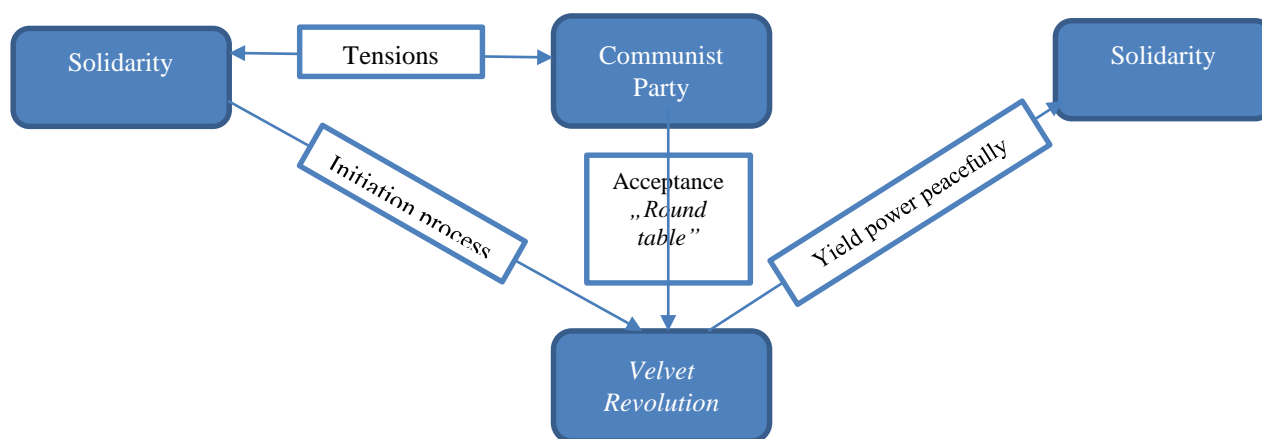


Scheme 1

This is a scheme, in terms of ideal, which *power transfer* can be achieved even say ideal given for comparison what happened on the political scene in the year 1989, namely that stripping power single party known different weights, including violent materialized (in some states), issues that we will see further.

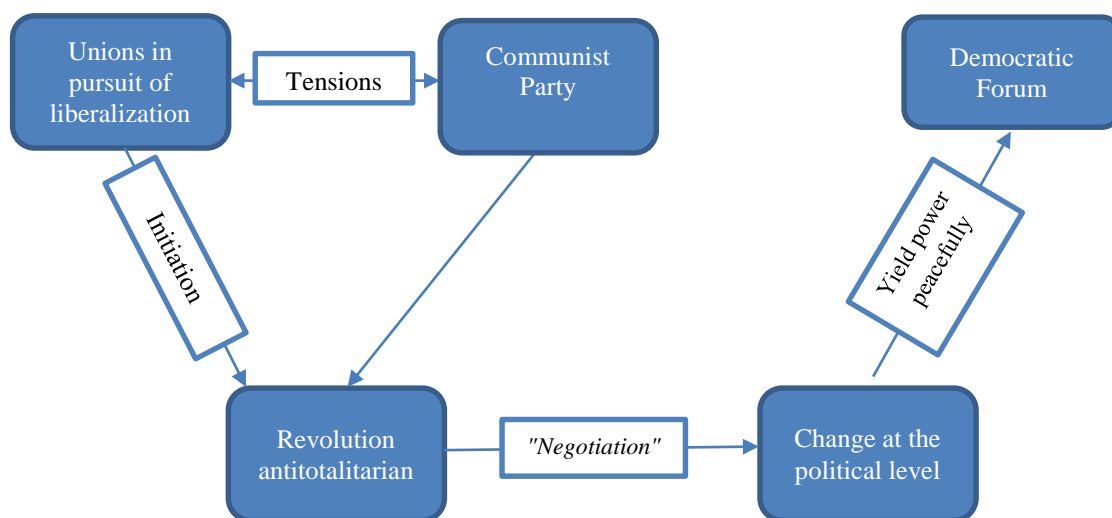
Poland through the *Velvet Revolution*³, known as the initiator liberalization with the Solidarity trade union. The pressures of the latter, carried out on communist leaders led to the acceptance of the round table negotiations. If this state was one particular period due to stretching of the transfer process (10 years). Undemocratic government has demonstrated a capability well defined in terms of resistance to change trend.

³ See the cause of the revolution in Poland in general Adrian Pop, *Origins and types of revolutions of Eastern Europe*, (Bucharest: Ed. Encyclopedia, 2010); Flavius Cristian Marcau, "Revolution of the ten years << >> from Poland" in *Research and Science Today*, Supplement 3/2015, July 2015, 124-129



Scheme 2⁴

Hungary, unlike Poland, experienced a rebound that came from within the party. Regarding the change of power at the state level, we find, in 1988, different political projects - from among communist leaders - in pursuit of liberalization (based model Gorbachev *Perestroika*)⁵. In this situation, the transfer of power was found the following form:



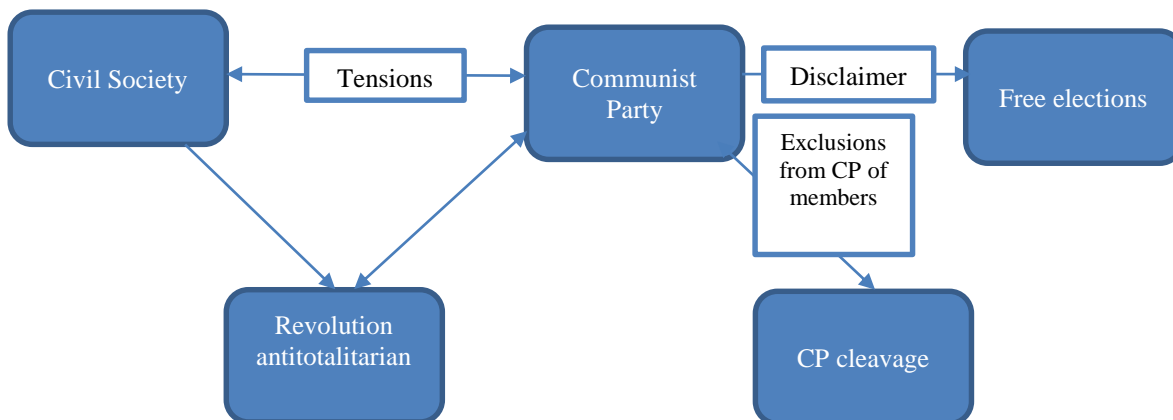
Scheme 3⁶

⁴ We see how the pressures of the Solidarity trade union and Communist Party led to the initiation of the transfer process by velvet revolution. On this occasion, the communist leaders have agreed to start negotiation process roundtable, which resulted in giving up power is done in a peaceful way.

⁵ Adrian Pop, *Attempted transition. A history of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe*, (Bucharest: Corinth, 2002)

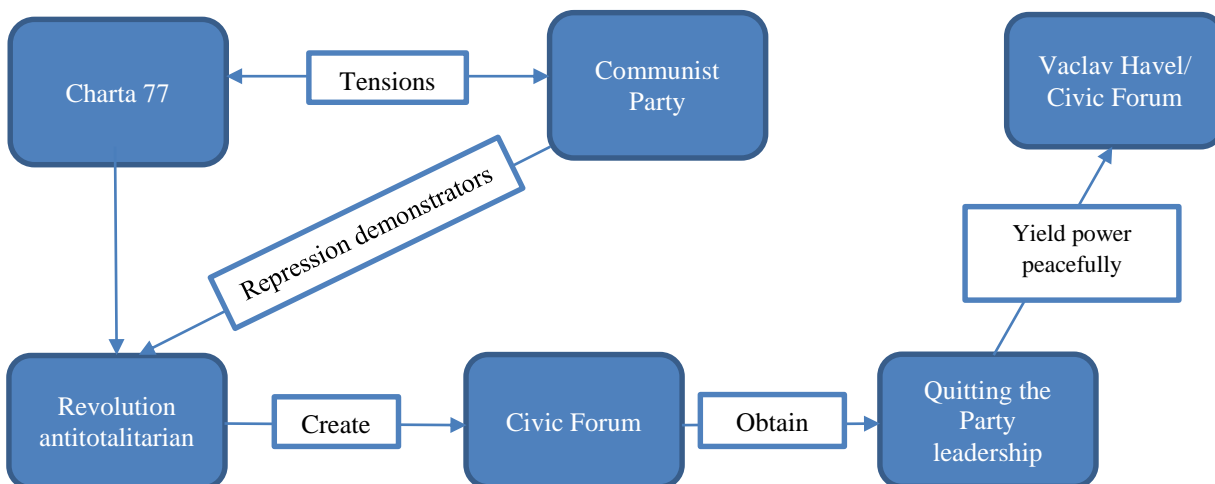
⁶ Note that in the case of Hungary, like that of Poland, initiating the process of changing power of trade unions created pressures aimed to liberalize the Hungarian Communist Party. The result of these pressures was reached anti-totalitarian event that generated a series of changes at the political level. As a result, power was ceded by the communists, the democratic form created to democratize the state.

Bulgaria, following the revolution anti-totalitarian, experienced an orderly transfer of power. The changes occurred within the Communist Party by giving it the leading role in society and initiate the process of democratization. Revolution in Bulgaria was made possible initially by using ecological farming of. The pressures of civil society and the Communist Party took catalyst chemical plant pollution from Giurgiu which is the Romanian bank. These demonstrations have created a momentum to liberalization of state is like switching to democracy.



Scheme 4⁷

Czechoslovakia is the first state that has experienced violence during the transfer of power. At this level could see a reluctance of communist leaders in terms of changing. In this situation, the party carried out a campaign of repression of demonstrators who attended the rally organized by Charter 77. As a result, two days of protest arose Civic Forum which organized the demonstrations, obtained resignation of party leadership communist. The transfer of power took place following coordinates: *rally - aggression - rally - negotiation*.

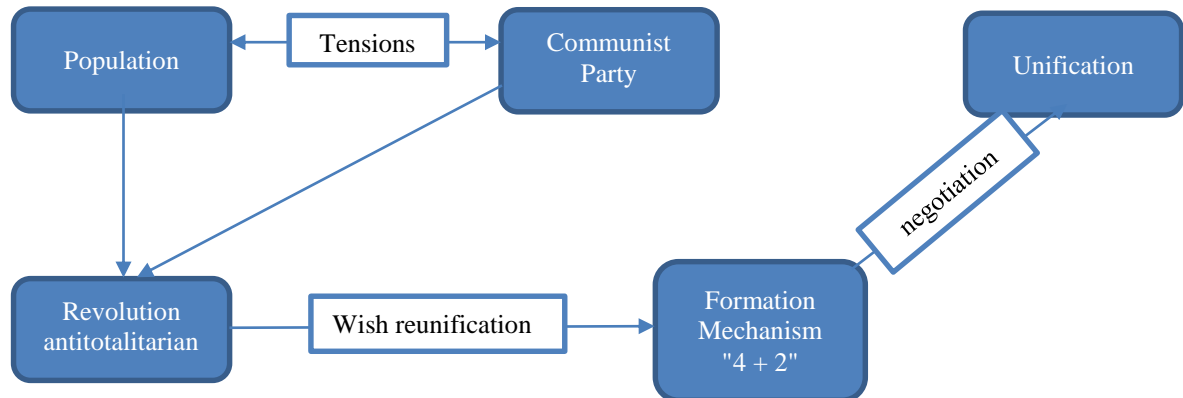


Scheme 5⁸

⁷ Such pressures have led to revolution Anti-totalitarian, and the exclusion of a number of partial turn, led to its cleavage. Shortly communist leader Zhivkov, we support having Gorbachev is changed Mladenov, who decides to initiate the democratization process.

⁸ Czechoslovakia was the first state to repression of demonstrators known. Under the pressure of Charter 77 and the PC, it was Antitotalitarian revolution, but communist leaders found it necessary to intervene with force to stop

German Democratic Republic was faced with demonstrations against totalitarian coming from people without them to benefit from the guidance of a group (the model states above). Transfer of power came amid public desire to unite the two Germanys. But the novelty factor, compared to other states, was the reactivation mechanism quadripartite (after 18 years) negotiated between the four states rights over Germany (US, USSR, France and Great Britain) represent the will of their clear to prevent German reunification. It arose when negotiating mechanism known as the "4 + 2" which was made up of foreign affairs ministers of the four countries and two Germans.

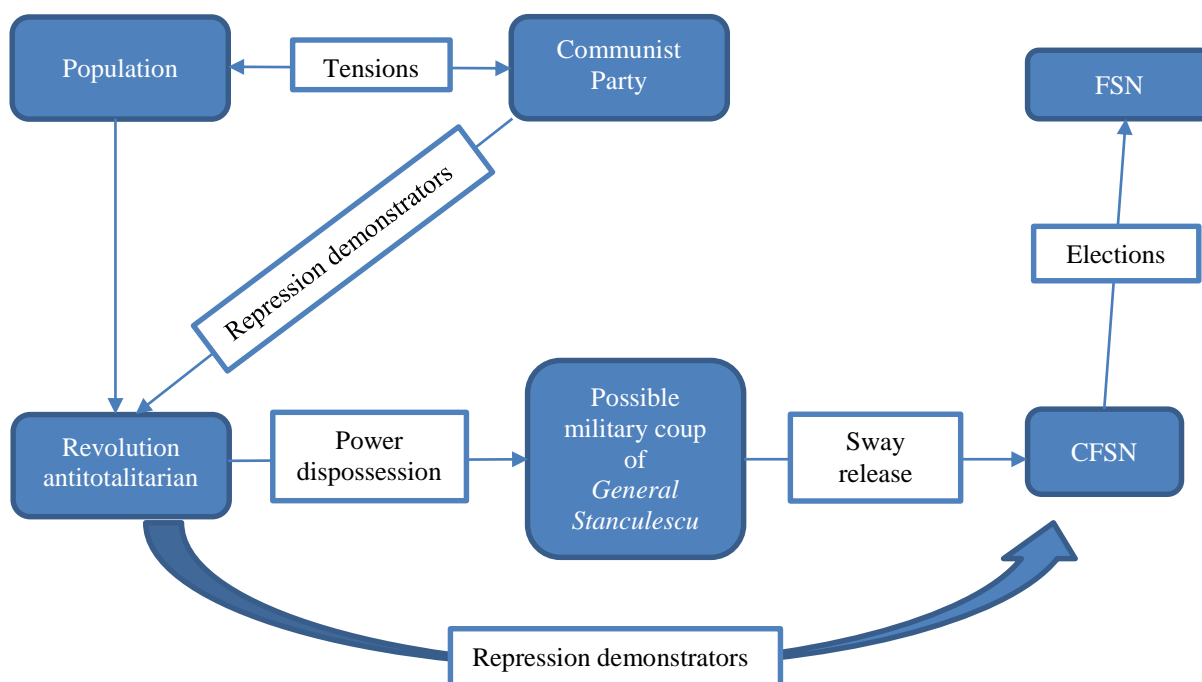


Scheme 6⁹

Romania's case is different from other states that have passed through anti-totalitarian revolution, and it is because of Ceausescu's refusal to cede power. It is the only state of the six who went through a particularly bloody anti-totalitarian event. Communist leaders did everything he could to maintain their positions. The repression of demonstrators was made in a brutal manner by using security, police, border guards, especially the military. But power failure did not follow the original course - the dictator to the group formed to take over power and initiating the process of democratization. The news is, though few authors have noted this aspect in that power, before being transferred to the National Salvation Front Council, belonged to the army. After taking off dictators of the Central Committee building (December 22), was recovered power for a short time in the hands of General Stanculescu, shortly, gave a NSFC leader. The transfer of power has occurred in the following coordinates: rally - aggression - NSFC.

the demonstrations. As a result of suppression is created Civic Forum party which obtained the resignation of the scale of protests in the country. Following these resignations, giving up power knows a peaceful manner.

⁹ Notice the pressure of population and led to the revolution Antitotalitarian PC that generated the desire for unification of the two Germanys among the demonstrators. Thus, from this desire, 4 + 2 mechanism is reactivated, and after negotiations to reach unification.

Scheme 7¹⁰

In conclusion, noting models developed during our approach, we understand that the transfer of power has undergone different approaches for decomunized states by anti-totalitarian revolution in 1989. Linearity and heterogeneity missing in these situations and countries differ from one another, including understanding how action situations. In this situation it is not possible to develop a *pattern* of power transfer, because of the peculiarities that are found in the individual member states. But post-communist states that have shown us the power can be transferred in several ways, either as a principal element is *violent* or *peaceful*. With the escalating violence, the regime can understand cede power or civil society to resist up to a certain point. Anti-totalitarian Revolutions to describe the point where each individual state has wanted. Romania, for example, through its leaders, proved he could carry out a strong campaign of repression of demonstrators, in comparison with Hungary to understand that violence must be excluded.

¹⁰ Romania is the only state of the six who are facing serious difficulties of the transfer of power. Living hard that the state population felt totalitarian regime, led to pressure between the government and the people that were materialized in December 1989 in a bloody revolution Antitotalitarian. But stripping power is not aimed at removing single party and getting power by the newly formed group (NSF). During the events, for a short period of time, the army was the one who held power (via General Stanculescu), later being transferred Council and leader of the National Salvation Front (Ion Iliescu).

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