
Local Traditions in Kyrgyzstan and the Rule of Law

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The Publication

Every European or US consultant for the Kyrgyz government or civil society should read this book - and also those for other Central Asian states, as many social and government fabrics are very close. This book opens the eyes about the Rule of Law, as it was and is still understood by Kyrgyz society, and it opens also ways far from the "teacher's" role of the consultant of the past. The concept of the Rule of Law is explained in detail, as it was before, during and after communist time, the election of local government past and today, the role of gifts in elections, the role of clans and families during parliamentary elections, and that it will take a certain time until the Central Asian countries can be called a beacon of democracy in the Western sense. However, there is hope, as good consultants will also let the people keep their traditions which are not too ineffective - here the author spreads an optimistic impression about the future of her country. This can be confirmed objectively, some years after March 2006, the third president later, after another revolution and in view of other Central Asian countries. Kyrgyzstan is the only country in Central Asia which tries to have a really pluralistic parliament from which emerges a certain discussion culture, and it disposes today of a relatively free press compared to most other countries of the region. However, there is still a long way to go. As the knowledge about the country in Europe and North America is very restricted, this text may serve to counter this. The author also describes the more and more authoritarian changes in the presidential elections; the manuscript stops in the first time of the Bakiev government, but it is topical until now. A Glossary crowns the book which, short and concise, is a brilliant piece of legal description for Central Asia.

The Author



Gulnaz Baitarova is among the "hidden treasures" of Kyrgyzstan, her country: After a LL. B. degree in International Law at International University of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, on the "Development of Foreign Trade Activities of Kyrgyzstan in connection with its membership to the WTO" (2001/with distinction). she studied for a LL. M. degree in International Law and the Law of International Organisations, University of Groningen, The Netherlands (2003/with distinction), with a thesis on "The Concept of Sustainable Development in International Law". She took part in the John Smith Fellowship Programme, London/Edinburgh, with an Academic Programme by the Center for Studies in Security and Diplomacy at University of Birmingham (including practical attachments with universities, the BBC, Human Rights Watch etc.), and in a Second Degree in Psychology at the University of Practical Psychology, Moscow, Russia (2012). She has professional experiences in legal clinics, teaching on human rights at American University in Bishkek, an Internship with the International Court of Justice in The Hague/Netherlands, working for UNDP and UNHCR in Kyrgyzstan, and various NGO and public foundation posts, like e.g. judge at a moot court for the American Bar Association, or for the GTZ ("Support to Judiciary Reform"), or for humanitarian aid coordination after an earthquake in Osh. Since 2002 she holds a licence of the Ministry of Justice on the right to conduct Advocate activity, and since February 2011 she is Event Coordinator at Creative Team Events Agency in Bishkek. This paper has been submitted to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek / Kyrgyzstan at the end of March 2006. This is some years ago now, but it remains unchanged what concerns the basic principles of the Rule of Law.

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