

POLITICAL SCIENCES AND THE TEACHING OF SECURITY SERVICES

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There are nearly two decades of tradition in the teaching of secret service's topics on the Department of Political Science at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the Szeged University.

For the majority of students secret services mean a mystic and inevitably suppressing apparatus, which did not respect basic human rights, on the basis of party political decisions kept people under control and applied mainly existential sanctions against them. Political mistrustfulness of historic origin caused uncertainty for a long time, up to the present.

On the other hand the legal normativism simply means that the law is something that is "posited": a system of rules that is kept and enforced through a set of institutions. Approaches to the secret services with the assistance of positivism are much easier, than by the analysis of their social and political surroundings. However, remarkable fact, this method is unavoidable way to research secret services. But of course the legal normativism is not the only method; it means only a secondary source of this research and teaching work, just like the comparative method

In fact, even today, after the fall of the party state, the files and the empirical data of archives which are essential to the analytical research are only partly accessible. In conclusion we can summarize the negative and positive tendencies of studying secret services: nevertheless, research has started in many directions and has a good basis to hope that the political characteristics of the security services of the past political systems will become more and more completely disclosed in the near future. We hope these purposes will be the compass in the not too far future on the field of the research work and of education, as well.