

REVIEW OF THE BOOK
Control Over Police Practice by Dragomir Jovičić

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Dr. Dragomir Jovičić's book *Control Over Police Practice* represents a continuity in dealing with the issue of control over the security system, with a focus on the police. This topic is especially important for the former socialist countries, which had used, now an abandoned name, "countries in transition" for many years. How can a society totally controlled by one party, a society in which court judgments were rendered imposing imprisonment sentences for verbal acts, make a transition to civil society in which democratic elections are the only way to constitute a government? This "transition" was not easy in many countries. The role of the security services, especially the police, in the socialist system was especially emphasized. Substantial effort was necessary to establish mechanisms through which society would control the police, because otherwise the police would continue to control society.

Jovičić deals with these mechanisms and his book will be a good textbook for students who study security, and who, after graduation, are going to deal with this area, in a practical sense, as police officers. That is why it is important for them to learn in time that the police are in the service of citizen protection, rather than the repressive apparatus of a party, an interest group, or a powerful individual.

The book *Control over police practice* is written in a readable, understandable way, but it is also based on a scientific view and understanding of the security sector. The author used 75 references, and 18 laws and regulations were used as sources. The book consists of eight parts in which the author explains the police and their basic role in society. After describing the limitations of police powers, the author describes the issue of control, that is, state oversight over the planned security policy. In the first four chapters, Dr. Jovičić interprets the theoretical basis and legal framework of control, in Chapter Five, he deals with the oversight and control of the Republika Srpska police, which is the title of this chapter.

He continues to elaborate on this topic, in order to apply a comparative approach in Chapter Eight by studying the models of police control in the region. Finally, in the chapter entitled "European Principles of Police Supervision," the author explains European standards and principles guiding the European Court of Human Rights.

Dr. Dragomir Jovičić possesses rich police work experience, and he has come a long way from a criminal investigator to the Minister of the Interior. Bearing that in mind, we certainly need to trust him when he points out the importance of control. He certainly knows all the faces of the police. He also knows what it looks like when police officers are selfless towards the work they perform, as a sublime one and the one which can only be performed by special, selected people, and of course the possibility of the abuse of police and police powers cannot be hidden from him.

That is why Dr. Jovičić points out the importance of police control, because control is of great importance, both for society and for the police, in order to protect itself from abuse by politically powerful groups and individuals. Although we have already indicated that the book *Control over police practice* is intended primarily for students enrolled in the Faculty of Security Studies, University of Banja Luka, where Dr. Jovičić lectures, it can be of great benefit to students in other higher education institutions studying security and law. At the same time, a wider circle of readers may read this book to learn that the police are not a force above society or institutions, of which citizens should be afraid. The police should be perceived as an instrument of protection. Also, uninformed readers will understand that police control is a comprehensive and complex mechanism, which can be internal or external. Again, external control has several models of which the most important are control by the legislature, control by the executive branch and control by the judicial branch. Certainly, the control over the police exercised by a civil society through numerous non-governmental organizations cannot and must not be neglected, nor should the often crucial role of the media be neglected.

Dr. Jovičić writes in a clear, easily understandable style, even when he discusses complex police operations into which the control bodies need to gain an insight. The author's extensive experience in all police affairs is easily felt. The book thus has a higher, added value, because its author knows well what the police can do and what social benefit its work has, but he also knows what the police must not do, which he constantly points out in his book. The author points out all this in a book which will surely have a wider impact on the community of experts. Dr. Jovičić's book is a compact whole which explains the role of the police in society to the readers, its possibilities and limitations, including the most important topic of the book – the issue of control.