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Martin Hapla is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Legal Theory of the Faculty of Law, Masaryk University, Brno. In his work "Separation of Power and the Independence of the Judiciary" (*Dělbba moci a nezavislost justice*) he deals with a frequently debated topic (not just in the field of constitutional law, but also in the realm of the theory of law).

Nevertheless, just as the author argues in the introduction, the partial questions of this topic are discussed quite often, but these discussions are mainly focused on specific questions/problems, therefore lack the important normative prerequisites and as a result the general problems are missing a theoretical-philosophical level. With this statement, the author sets the tone on why the dimension of a theoretical-philosophical argument is and always will be present in any legal discussion.

The monography is separated in four chapters: "Theory of separation of power" (*Teorie dělby moci*), "Application problems of separation of powers and their possible solutions" (*Aplikační problémy dělby moci a jejich možná východiska*), "Judiciary and its relation to separation of powers" (*Justice a její vztah k dělbě moci*), "Separation of power in the realm of principles and the question of legitimacy" (*Dělbba moci v říši principů a otázka legitimacy*).

The spine of the whole publication is the first chapter called "Theory of separation of power" (*Teorie dělby moci*), in which the author first tries to define and introduce theories of the separation of power in the historical and the present-day context. The author then starts by explaining the phrasing of the idiom "separation of power", and only afterwards draws the attention on the real problems of the terminology (the issue arises mainly from the authors native Czech language), without putting any ambition to solve these problems.

The author believes that many difficulties and misunderstandings related (not only) to the concept of separation of powers arise from the confusion of concepts and terminology. In fact, the name of the concept itself is confusing, where "separation" in addition to division rests also on other principles (in foreign languages, for example, it normally distinguishes between separation and distribution of power). The Czech literature does not adequately reflect these shortcomings in the terminology, which the author clearly summarizes. In the second chapter, "Application problems of separation of powers and their possible solutions" (*Aplikační problémy dělby moci a jejich možná východiska*) the author deals with the question of whether the concept of the separation of power is even a logical concept, and if it is then how it fulfills its goals. The author points out that the effectiveness of the separation of powers can hardly be determined, therefore it will be easier to prove it in the logical judgment context.

In this chapter the author gives three theoretical possible solutions for the problem of inability to predicate the application of the principle of separation of power for a specific case. Firstly, we could accept the premise that the system is imperfect and the principle of separation of power is just something that the author calls a "legitimation apron". Secondly, we should supplement the principle that as time passes by and the society changes, if a principle stays static there is a risk it dies away. Thirdly, to refuse the principle and to replace it something new that would fulfill the task this principle could not.

In the third chapter, entitled "Judiciary and its relation to the separation of powers" (*Justice a její vztah k dělbě moci*) the author reflects on the theoretical problems outlined earlier, which he considers to be a topical issue. Even though in this chapter the author claims that the independence of the judiciary is necessary, he points out that the concepts of "independence" and "impartiality" are not necessarily linked together, and that the absolute independence of the judiciary in the society would only lead to autocracy.

The fourth chapter, entitled "Separation of power in the realm of principles and the question of legitimacy" (*Dělba moci v říši principů a otázka legitimacy*) examines the internal relationships between the principle of separation of powers and the other principles, such as the sovereignty of the people and human rights.

The author expresses his belief that many objections to the separation of powers are related to the fact that we have exaggerated expectations and even a good implementation will not ensure automatic resolution of all problems related to the topic. This statement shows not just a deep understanding of the topic in a theoretical scope but also in a real-life application. The author's supplementary footnotes in the monography are rich and they serve as good complement to the main text.

I strongly believe that there always will be the need in the scientific legal community for taking on practical questions in a theoretical-philosophical context and in this manner the author has succeeded in creating a high-quality monography, which is rich in content, logically structured, based on a correct grasp of theoretical concepts, whilst taking on a traditional question in a slightly different way. Therefore, this monography may serve as an original contribution to the scientific legal community.