The author analyzes the evolution of the Eastern-European postcommunist countries, concerning the relations between the state and the society. Building new, democratic institutions instead of the authoritarian ones was a vast effort, requiring various cultural, social, and political resources. The evolution of the mentalities and the development of the mass-media were considered to be the most relevant aspects of this transition, contributing to the education of a new and democratic “civil society”.

**Keywords:** postcommunist countries, authoritarian regimes, political transition, democracy