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Democracy and Its Alternatives Understanding Post-Communist Transformation Stubborn Structures Post-Communist Aesthetics Demobilized Societies Identity in a Post-communist Balkan State The Anatomy of Post-Communist Regimes 28 Years of Independence Explaining Political Regime Diversity in Post-communist States Discontinuity in Elite Formation Political Parties and the State in Post-Communist Europe Post-Soviet Racisms Democracy Without Engagement? Democratization and the Environment Post-Communist Mafia State The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe Governing the Post-communist City Understanding Democracy Police Reform and Human Rights Post-communist Studies And Political Science Beyond Post-communist Studies: Political Science and the New Democracies of Europe Theorising Transition Family Businesses in Transition Economies Communist Ghosts Meandering in Transition Constraints and Opportunities of Leadership in Post-Communist Europe Post-Communist Transition Political Culture and Post-Communism Summary of Stephen Holmes & Ivan Krastev's The Light That Failed Change Forces in Post-Communist Eastern Europe Learning About Politics in Time and Space Post Communist Capitalism and Capital The New Elite in Post-communist Eastern Europe Post-Communism Aspects of the Orange Revolution: Post-communist democratic revolutions in comparative perspective Post-Communist Malaise Catching Up and Falling Behind Understanding Post-Soviet Transitions The Faces of Janus Really Existing Nationalisms

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This title was first published in 2001. In seeking to better understand post-communist identity change, this book presents an analysis based on the study of everyday life in two villages in northern Albania. The author describes the villages from the perspective of community, economic activity and relations with the state. The book applies theories relating identity and civil society to the social, economic and political realities associated with post-communist transformation. By describing village life in northern Albania at the close of the 20th century, it aims to complement the anthropological work undertaken by Edith Durham in the early 1900s and by Margaret Hasluck in the 1930s. The collapse of communism and the adoption of parliamentary democracy led to rapid and dramatic educational change in countries formerly under the control of the Soviet Union. Leaders of the affected countries acknowledged the need to develop educational systems during the rebuilding process and embraced this transformation in a short period of time. This has provided researchers with a unique opportunity to investigate educational change as a 'living laboratory'. In this book, the authors explore the complex nature of change in five former communist countries: Russia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and East Germany. The authors consider: * Educational change as a process rather than as a event * A comparison of such changes against a model for educational change developed by Michael Fullan for understanding large-scale educational reform * Analysis of issues at the national level where the original impetus for change has occurred With contributors from countries affected by such changes, this book provides an insight into the process of educational change as a result of revolution rather than evolution. This book will be of great interest to academics and researchers of educational change and those involved with educational reform. It will also interest those looking at comparative education models and postgraduate students focussing their studies on issues of educational change and reform. This book provides an account of systemic corruption within the context of post-Soviet economic and political transitions. Focusing on Armenia and Georgia, it shows how systemic corruption has developed since the fall of Soviet rule and how corruption has shaped the emerging economic and political systems of these two countries. This book presents the reader a comprehensive understanding of the development of family business in transitional economies. Throughout eastern Europe, post-Communist countries transitioning to market-based economies are obtaining a variety of results due to diverse policy approaches. Expert contributions in this book draw from a wealth of information in this context and include thought-provoking policy prescriptions for the future. This book concentrates on the challenges to predict the direction emerging markets will take, particularly when dealing with the wide-ranging social and economic situations taking place in post-Communist Eastern Europe. This reference volume for policymakers, educators, investors, and researchers also provides a much-needed and timely survey of family firms in the transitioning markets of post-Communist Europe. An

impressive re-examination of the theories of Marx and Engels on nationalism. Really Existing Nationalisms challenges the conventional view that Marx and Engels lacked the theoretical resources needed to understand nationalism. It argues that the two thinkers had a sophisticated insight into the subject, and that the reasoning behind their policy towards specific national movements was often subtle and sensitive to the ethical issues at stake. Erica Benner identifies arguments in Marx and Engels' writings that can help us to think more clearly about national identity and conflict today. This book is novel not only in its theoretical framework, which places racialisation in post-communist societies and their modernist political projects at the centre of processes of global racism, but also in being the first account to examine both these new national contexts and the interconnections between racisms in these four regions of the Baltic states, the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, and elsewhere. Assessments of the significance of the contemporary geopolitical contexts of armed conflict, economic transformation and political transition for racial discourse are central themes, and the book highlights the creative, innovative and persistent power of contemporary forms of racial governance which has central significance for understanding contemporary societies. The book will be of interest to scholars and students in the areas of racism and ethnicity studies. "What an important and much-needed addition to the growing, but still grossly insufficient, body of work on Soviet racial thinking and its impact on Soviet and post-Soviet racisms. At the time of renewed racial tensions in the West and the growing racial anxieties underlying a variety of nation-building projects in the former Soviet spaces it is important to understand the often ignored linkages between Communist paternalism and Western views of race and racial difference. Even though its focus remains the former Soviet Union this book contains a valuable analytical toolkit for the scholars of race and racism across political and geographical boundaries." -Maxim Matusevich, Seton Hall University, USA "Post-Soviet Racisms is the first comprehensive comparative study of the politics of race in post-Soviet states. Why do racialising or overtly racist theories at times become central to the construction of post-Soviet identities? How do racisms of the dominant national groups and minorities compare? How does the process of the transnational circulation of racist and racialising discourses work? These are some of the important questions which are addressed in this groundbreaking book that enriches our understanding of the complexity of the current developments in the region." -Vera Tolz, University of Manchester, UK The book addresses the dynamics of the post-Communist transition and identity building in Central Eastern Europe. It scrutinizes the formation of geopolitical affiliations and discourses of belonging. It also traces the dynamics of national decision-making, institution-building and changing perceptions of the region by global actors. When faced with the rapid and disorienting transition from communism to democracy, many eastern European leaders sought simple, immediately rewarding answers to complex policy problems. Undoubtedly, this hurried approach had a significant impact on the quality of democratic government in formerly communist countries. Through an analysis of urban politics in Prague between 1990 and 2000, *Governing the Post-Communist City* sheds new light on the factors that shaped policy in eastern Europe at the time of its democratic transformation. The first book-length study of post-communist urban politics in a city outside of Russia, *Governing the Post-Communist City* links the difficulties of democratic government in 1990s Prague to decisions made shortly after the fall of communism. Focusing on the issues of road infrastructure and downtown development, Martin Horak argues that local leadership was more concerned with insulating policy-making processes from public influence than with creating new policies suited to post-communist urban development. This set a precedent for the whole institutional environment of post-communist Prague and entrenched itself in the city's politics throughout the 1990s. Original, engaging, and authoritative, this study has much to say about the political climate in Prague after the downfall of communism, and makes insightful conclusions about the factors that contributed to present political circumstances in the region. Attempting to understand the catalogue of horrors that has characterised much of twentieth-century history, Western scholars generally distinguish between violent revolutions of the "right" and the "left". Fascist regimes are assigned to the evil right, Marxist-Leninist regimes to the benign left. But this distinction has left us without a coherent understanding of the revolutionary history of the twentieth century, contends A. James Gregor in this insightful book. He traces the evolution of Marxist theory from the 1920s through the 1990s and argues that the ideology of Marxism-

Leninism devolved into fascism. Fascist regimes and Communist regimes - both anti-democratic ideocracies - are far more closely related than has been recognised. Employing wide-ranging primary source materials in Italian, German, Russian, and Chinese, the book opens with an examination of the first standard Marxist interpretation of Mussolini's fascism in the early 1920s and proceeds through the emergence of fascist phenomena in post-Communist Russia. A clearer understanding of the relation between fascism and communism provides a sharper lens through which to view twentieth-century history as well as the present and future politics of Russia, Communist China, and other non-democratic states, Gregor concludes. In this first extended reassessment of Sovietology in over two decades, the authors argue that the field's isolation from the social sciences has diminished analysts' ability to explain the dramatic changes in the USSR. It is not possible to understand the nature and functioning of post-communist political parties without understanding their relationship with the state. On the one hand, few parties in the region would be able to survive and perform without state resources as they lack strong roots within the wider society. On the other hand, the relatively weak st In this new book, Leslie Holmes provides the first comprehensive single-authored analysis of post-communism. He highlights and explains both the positive and negative aspects of post-communism in the political, economic, and social spheres. Throughout, the policies and structures of late communism are compared to the situation existing now in the ex-communist countries. The result is a comprehensive and accessible introduction to one of the most major events this century. The fall of the Berlin Wall launched the transformation of government, economy and society across half of Europe and the former Soviet Union. This text deals with the process of change in former Communist bloc countries, ten of which have become new European Union (EU) democracies while Russia and her neighbours remain burdened by their Soviet legacy. Drawing on more than a hundred public opinion surveys from the New Europe Barometer, the text compares how ordinary people have coped with the stresses and opportunities of transforming Communist societies into post-Communist societies and the resulting differences between peoples in the new EU member states and Russia. Subjects covered by *Understanding Post-Communist Transformation* include: Stresses and opportunities of economic transformation Social capital and the development of civil society Elections and the complexities of party politics The challenges for the EU of raising standards of democratic governance Differences between Russia's and the West's interpretation of political life Written by one of the world's most renowned authorities on this subject, this text is ideal for courses on transition, post-communism, democratization and Russian and Eastern European history and politics. The transition from authoritarian, planned economies to democratic market economies is one of the most ambitious and momentous political-economic endeavors of the last century. As such, it is hardly surprising that the transition has been carried out with varying levels of success. Previous literature has examined features of the reforms (i.e. gradualism vs. shock therapy) or external monitoring, support and incentives (such as was available for aspiring EU members) as determinants of the probability of successful reform. This thesis contributes to our understanding of how public attitudes and beliefs about economic reforms may be a factor in the stalled or incomplete "transitions" in many post-communist countries. It is important to understand the origins of such attitudes as their effects are still felt directly in post-communist countries today. The success of economic reforms requires the public to believe that they are credible and irreversible. Otherwise people will not become invested in the new economic systems. Social scientists are increasingly seeing such public opinion data as meaningful with important policy implications. This thesis specifically explores how government trust and satisfaction with the economic situation affects post-communist attitudes toward further economic reforms. Using both the author's original survey data collected in Ukraine in 2016 and the 2016 Life in Transition Survey (LITS) data on all 28 comparative post-communist countries, the paper analyzes individual-level predictors of attitudes toward ownership, privatization, and economic reform in Ukraine, as well as the regional stratification of attitudes within Ukraine. Examining transformations using a variety of perspectives *Theorizing Transition* provides both a rich empirical map of the dimensions of post-Communism and raises important theoretical issues about how we interpret these changes. Richard Rose's memoir vividly describes first-hand experience of the transformation of politics in Europe and the United States since 1940. He has been teargassed in Chicago, seen walls go up in Belfast and come down in Berlin. The

author's education in the streets and in the corridors of political power give a unique perspective on discrimination by race, religion and class, and the world in which political scientists live today. Rose has distilled a 500-page book into a three-minute Oval Office explanation to George W Bush of why America's intervention in Iraq was a disaster. He gives practical advice to political scientists about how to make words into concepts and communicate what you know to others inside and outside universities. The book's photographs show memorials to the dead, and living evidence of how election forecasting has changed since Delphi. Using skills developed since teaching himself to type at the age of eight, Rose describes his 20 years of working in newspapers, radio and television before publishing his first book. Since then he has combined social science methodology, along with the methodologies of comparative drama and the applied arts, to write many innovative books. This is the latest. Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 In 1990, John Feffer, a 26-year-old American, spent several months traveling Eastern Europe in hopes of understanding its post-communist future. He was fascinated and puzzled by the contradictions he encountered. The capitalist future had arrived, but its benefits and burdens were unevenly distributed. #2 After 1989, the global spread of democracy was envisioned as a version of the fairy tale of Sleeping Beauty, where the Prince of Freedom would only have to slay the Dragon of Tyranny and kiss the princess to awaken a previously dormant liberal majority. But the kiss proved bitter, and the revived majority turned out to be more resentful and less liberal than expected. #3 The origins of populism are complex, but they are partly rooted in the humiliations of struggling to become, at best, an inferior copy of a superior model. After 1989, there were no alternatives to liberal political and economic models. This led to a contrarian desire to prove that there were alternatives. #4 The revolutions of 1989 were largely unmarred by the cut-throat methods and human suffering that are usually part of root-and-branch political upheaval. They were instead characterized by their hostility to utopias and political experiments. This book explores post-communist thresholds as materializations of a specific crisis of modern European identity that was caused by the existence and sudden breakdown of Soviet-type communism. It shows how post-communist thresholds emerge where relics from the communist experience continue disrupting the routines and rhythms of a modern life and confront Europeans with cultural experiences, affects and material realities of the 'enlightened world' which they usually seek to repress or ignore. In exploring and writing through art projects which engage with the psychosocial fabric of such post-communist thresholds, this book finds ways of speaking and thinking through these transitory and paradox sites, and asks what we can say about other or new worlds, about new beginnings and endings as well as about decolonial and ethical ways of relating to the other when assessing the status quo of European modernity from within its liminal and crisis-driven sphere. Taking Slovakia as a case study, this volume investigates the role of leadership and political leaders in post-communist Europe. In particular it explores the role played by the three-time Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar in determining the course of Slovak politics in the 1990s. Building on the concepts of "constraint" and "opportunity" and the strategic-relational approach, Tim Haughton advances an arena-based model of leadership. The volume will be of particular interest to advanced students of Central and East European politics and political scientists interested in issues of leadership. Contents: Introduction: Assessing the role of political leaders in a post-Communist country; The leader and his party; The leader and the coalition; The leader and the institutional framework of politics; The leader and public opinion; The leader and the wider world: the role of the international environment; Putting Meciar in comparative perspective: the role of political leaders in post-Communist Europe; Bibliography; Index. Offering a single, coherent framework of the political, economic, and social phenomena that characterize post-communist regimes, this is the most comprehensive work on the subject to date. Focusing on Central Europe, the post-Soviet countries and China, the study provides a systematic mapping of possible post-communist trajectories. At exploring the structural foundations of post-communist regime development, the work discusses the types of state, with an emphasis on informality and patronalism; the variety of actors in the political, economic, and communal spheres; the ways autocrats neutralize media, elections, etc. The analysis embraces the color revolutions of civil resistance (as in Georgia and in Ukraine) and the defensive mechanisms of democracy and autocracy; the evolution of corruption and the workings of "relational economy"; an analysis of China as "market-exploiting dictatorship"; the sociology of "clientage society"; and the

instrumental use of ideology, with an emphasis on populism. Beyond a cataloguing of phenomena—actors, institutions, and dynamics of post-communist democracies, autocracies, and dictatorships—Magyar and Madlovics also conceptualize everything as building blocks to a larger, coherent structure: a new language for post-communist regimes. While being the most definitive book on the topic, the book is nevertheless written in an accessible style suitable for both beginners who wish to understand the logic of post-communism and scholars who are interested in original contributions to comparative regime theory. The book is equipped with QR codes that link to www.postcommunistregimes.com, which contains interactive, 3D supplementary material for teaching. The editor of this book has brought together contributions designed to capture the essence of post-communist politics in East-Central Europe and Eurasia. Rather than on the surface structures of nominal democracies, the nineteen essays focus on the informal, often intentionally hidden, disguised and illicit understandings and arrangements that penetrate formal institutions. These phenomena often escape even the best-trained outside observers, familiar with the concepts of established democracies. Contributors to this book share the view that understanding post-communist politics is best served by a framework that builds from the ground up, proceeding from a fundamental social context. The book aims at facilitating a lexical convergence; in the absence of a robust vocabulary for describing and discussing these often highly complex informal phenomena, the authors wish to advance a new terminology of post-communist regimes. Instead of a finite dictionary, a kind of conceptual cornucopia is offered. The resulting variety reflects a larger harmony of purpose that can significantly expand the understanding the "real politics" of post-communist regimes. Countries analyzed from a variety of aspects, comparatively or as single case studies, include Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. Over a decade has passed since the collapse of communism, yet post-communist citizens are still far less likely to join voluntary organizations than people from other countries. Why do post-communist citizens mistrust public organizations? What explains this pattern of weak civil society? And what does this mean for democracy in the region? This engaging study addresses these questions with a provocative argument about the enduring impact of the communist experience on its countries and citizens. Howard argues that the experience of mandatory participation in state-controlled organizations and vibrant private networks during the communist period, combined with the disappointment with post-communist developments, have left most citizens with a lasting aversion to public activities. Howard analyzes the findings from over 30 democratic countries on the World Values Survey and also presents extensive and original evidence from his own research, focused on Eastern Germany and Russia. Post-communist democratic revolutions have, so far, taken place in six countries: Slovakia (1998), Croatia (1999-2000), Serbia (2000), Georgia (2003), Ukraine (2004), and Kyrgyzstan (2005). The seven chapters in this volume situate these events within a theoretical and comparative perspective. The book draws upon extensive experience and field research conducted by political scientists specializing in comparative democratization, regime politics, political transitions, electoral studies, and the post-communist world. The papers by Valerie Bunce and Sharon Wolchik, Henry Hale, Paul D'Anieri, David R. Marples, Taras Kuzio, Lucan A. Way and Steven Levitsky as well as Anika Locke Binnendijk and Ivan Marovic explore different regime types and opposition strategies in post-communist states, the diffusion of opposition strategies between states in which democratic revolutions were attempted, the strategic importance of youth NGO's in mobilizing oppositions towards democratic revolutions, the use of non-violent strategies by the opposition, path dependent, theoretical and comparative explanations of the sources of successful and failed democratic revolutions, and the factors that lie behind divergent post-revolutionary trajectories. The volume represents a breakthrough in our understanding of why and how democratic revolutions take place in the post-communist world. It provides an integrated analysis of why such upheavals succeed in some, but fail in other states. The contributions point to, among other issues, why the post-revolutionary breakthroughs in Serbia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan have encountered obstacles, the ousted regime was never fully defeated and its representatives were able to launch counter-revolutions, as well as why, in Serbia and Ukraine, the political forces of the ousted regimes have returned to power in free elections held after democratic revolutions. "Post-Communist Democratic Revolutions in Comparative Perspective" is essential reading for scholars and policy makers alike. An

examination, by Poland's former Minister of Finance, of the underlying reasons why the transition from state-controlled to free market economies has not been as smooth as envisaged by the relevant governments and international organizations. The collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was supposed to bring about the "end of history" with capitalism and liberal democracy achieving decisive victories. Europe would now integrate and reconcile with its past. However, the aftershocks of the financial crisis of 2008—the rise in right-wing populism, austerity politics, and mass migration—have shown that the ideological divisions which haunted Europe in the twentieth century still remain. It is within this context that *Post-Communist Malaise* revives discourses of political modernism and revisits debates from Marxism and seventies film theory. Analyzing work of Theo Angelopoulos, Věra Chytilová, Srdjan Dragojević, Jean-Luc Godard, Miklós Jancsó, Emir Kusturica, Dušan Makavejev, Cristi Puiu, Jan Švankmajer, Andrei Tarkovsky, and Béla Tarr, the book focuses on how select cinemas from Eastern Europe and the Balkans critique the neoliberal integration of Europe whose failures fuel the rise of nationalism and right-wing politics. By politicizing art cinema from the regions, *Post-Communist Malaise* asks fundamental questions about film, aesthetics, and ideology. It argues for the utopian potential of the materiality of cinematic time to imagine a new political and cultural organization for Europe. In this collection of essays David A Dyker explores some of the most difficult and fascinating aspects of the process of transition from autocratic 'real socialism' to a capitalism that is sometimes democratic, sometimes authoritarian. The stress is on the economic dimension of transformation, but the author sets the economic drama firmly within a political economy framework and a historical perspective. Trends in key economic variables are analysed against the background of the struggle between different social and political groups for power and command over resources. While the book pays due attention to topical issues like EU enlargement, the underlying perspective is a long-term one. Transition is viewed not as a set of once-and-for-all institutional changes or a process of short-term stabilisation, but as a historic opportunity to solve the inherited problem of poverty and underdevelopment in Central-East Europe and the former Soviet Union. The book ends with a critical assessment of how economics, as a discipline, has coped with the challenge of that historic opportunity. The collapse of Communism has created the opportunity for democracy to spread from Prague to the Baltic and Black Seas. But the alternatives—dictatorship or totalitarian rule—are more in keeping with the traditions of Central Europe. And for many post-Communist societies, democracy has come to be associated with inflation, unemployment, crime, and corruption. Is it still true, then, as Winston Churchill suggested a half-century ago, that people will accept democracy with all its faults—because it is better than anything else? To find out, political scientists Richard Rose, William Mishler, and Christian Haerpfer examine evidence from post-Communist societies in eastern Europe. Drawing on data from public opinion and exit polls, election results, and interviews, the authors present testable hypotheses regarding regime change, consolidation, and prospects for stabilization. The authors point out that the abrupt transition to democracy in post-Communist countries is normal; gradual evolution in the Anglo-American way is the exception to the rule. While most recent books on democratization focus on Latin America and, to some extent, Asia, the present volume offers a unique look at the process currently under way in nine eastern European countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Belarus, and Ukraine. Despite the many problems these post-Communist societies are experiencing in making the transition to a more open and democratic polity, the authors conclude that a little democracy is better than no democracy at all. The author argues that the fate of democracy in post-communist Romania largely depends on the goals and methods pursued by various organizations and social networks. These primarily act as recruitment and mobilization agents and channel citizen participation into political actions that can both challenge and strengthen democracy. Having won a two-third majority in Parliament at the 2010 elections, the Hungarian political party Fidesz removed many of the institutional obstacles of exerting power. Just like the party, the state itself was placed under the control of a single individual, who since then has applied the techniques used within his party to enforce submission and obedience onto society as a whole. In a new approach the author characterizes the system as the 'organized over-world', the 'state employing mafia methods' and the 'adopted political family', applying these categories not as metaphors but elements of a coherent conceptual framework. The actions of the post-communist mafia state model are

closely aligned with the interests of power and wealth concentrated in the hands of a small group of insiders. While the traditional mafia channeled wealth and economic players into its spheres of influence by means of direct coercion, the mafia state does the same by means of parliamentary legislation, legal prosecution, tax authority, police forces and secret service. The innovative conceptual framework of the book is important and timely not only for Hungary, but also for other post-communist countries subjected to autocratic rules. In this book, Anca Pusca seeks to extend the aesthetic and cultural turn in international relations to an analysis of post-communist transitions in Central and Eastern Europe. Building on the philosophy of Walter Benjamin and Jacques Ranciere, the work investigates how post-communist film, photography, theatre, art, museumization and architecture have creatively re-engaged with ideas of revolution, communism, capitalism and ethnic violence, and how this in turn has helped people survive and reinvent themselves amongst the material and ideological ruins of communism. The work illustrates how popular culture has effectively targeted and re-interpreted the classical representations of the transition in order to question:

- The origin – focusing on practices of re-staging, memorializing and questioning the 1989 revolutions.
- The unfolding – focusing on the human and material consequences of significant changes in processes of production and consumption.
- The potential end – focusing on the illusions and disillusion surrounding the 'transition' process.

A unique take on the influence that popular culture has had and continues to have on how we understand the post-communist transitions, this work will be of great interest to students and scholars of cultural and visual studies, eastern European politics and international relations. Since the demise of communism in the early nineties, police reform and human rights have become important topics in post-communist societies striving for more democratic and human rights based forms of governance. In spite of the introduction of new constitutions, the ratification of human rights treaties in many such countries, as well as the introduction of new criminal law and procedure codes, policing realities overall have proved remarkably intransigent. In this volume diverse experts from different countries discuss both impediments to and opportunities for the development of a more democratic and human rights-oriented police. As such, this volume is of importance to students and academics, as well as practitioners interested in acquiring an insight into the viability of different approaches to improve the quality of democratic and human rights-oriented policing in post-communist societies and beyond. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, a radical metamorphosis took place in Eastern Europe as major power structures were replaced by new systems of power and authority. With new power systems came new types of dominant elites. *The New Elite in Post-Communist Eastern Europe* identifies those elites who have gained control of the political, economic, cultural, and scientific institutions of the new state systems and examines the nature of power in the post-Communist world and the relationships between the old and new elite. This study of the new elite in Eastern Europe developed from a 1994 conference on the subject, attended by scholars, sociologists, representatives from major national and international government organizations, European state leaders, and those considered members of the new elite. Twenty-six of those participants have now contributed their experiences and their definitions of the new elite to this book, edited by Vladimir Shlapentokh, Christopher Vanderpool, and Boris Doktorov, resulting in a global intellectual effort to define the political and social processes of post-Communist society. *The New Elite in Post-Communist Eastern Europe* contains analysis from members of nearly every post-Soviet republic. Many contributors conducted direct sociological research on their respective issues, which along with polls and other data sources, developed a strong empirical base for the work. In addition to an introduction by Shlapentokh and Vanderpool, chapters appear under four main sections: "Post-Communist Elites: An Overview"; "Elites in Post-Soviet Republics"; "The Regional Elite in Russia"; and "Types of the Elite." Eastern Europe is a hotbed of unrest, revolution, and change. Understanding those who are in power is vital to understanding the countries in that region and their potential impact on global politics, economy, and society. *The New Elite in Post-Communist Eastern Europe* offers that understanding. Our understanding of the dynamics of Communist systems was substantially improved by taking political culture into account. But how much does the concept of political culture add to our empirical understanding of post-Communist Russia? The book's contributors engage with theoretical debates between political culture and competing 'rational choice' and institutionalist approaches to post-Soviet politics, and provide illustrative empirical studies of civic

participation, views of national identity, the Russian criminal justice system and political violence. In this book Foreign Direct Investments are defined as strategic investments by foreign economic agents who enter the transitional economy market by acquiring (partially or wholly) local enterprises. There is also the possibility of making a 'greenfield investment' in the host country. "This study seeks to assess theories of post-communist political regime diversity. Since 1989 tens of former communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and in the ex-Soviet Union developed into a rainbow of regimes, from stable democracies to stable autocracies. Four major theoretical approaches attempt to explain this diversity by focusing respectively on legacies, institutional choices, political leadership, and external influence. These approaches are tested using a sample of three post-communist countries representing different political trajectories: democracy, authoritarianism, and intermediate regimes. This study finds that none of these approaches comprehensively explains this diversity. "Unpacking" these approaches, however, and combining some elements from each, provides a good starting point for understanding the problem. Designing particular institutions like an electoral system and a strong presidential office may produce democratic or authoritarian trends. Particular legacies such as lack of shared public identity between rulers and the ruled can interfere and, despite institutional preconditions, keep post-communist countries in an intermediate regime position." -- This book makes the case that several East Central European countries have emerged as fully consolidated democracies. As such, they may be integrated into the mainstream of political science research, and not consigned forever to a transitional category encompassing countries that are now fully democracies as well as some that are not democratic at all. The author outlines the steps of another transition - from post-communist studies to political science research. He demonstrates how institutionalist, or rational choice, theories can be applied to the analysis of political processes in the successfully democratized countries, and proposes a new research agenda for political scientists studying the region. The results of this work can enrich political science as well as our understanding of both democracy and the politics of contemporary Eastern Europe.

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