Ideology And National Identity In Post Communist Foreign Policies

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Identities, Nations and Politics after Communism Roger E. Kanet 2013-10-18 This book focuses on questions of identity that have confronted the countries of Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the communist system that had previously provided them with an identity. This development both facilitated and necessitated a
reassessment of the now independent nations’ history, orientation, symbols and identity. In some cases, new states were created without a clear national identity, while in others the nation was regaining statehood, but not always within borders that had an historical association with the nation concerned. The multiethnic character of the space of the former Soviet Union and its erstwhile "satellites," and the long historical legacy of complex relations, boundary changes, population migration, and economic and social changes presented different challenges to the various nations and states concerned. The essays in this volume attempt to elucidate and understand the issues of ethnic and national identity and their relationship to the emerging statehood in various regions of the post-communist world. This study makes clear that some nation-states were far better prepared to handle these issues than others, and that the longer-term impact of the communist experience has varied. This book was previously published as a special issue of Nationalities Papers.

Ukraine vs Russia

Olexander Hryb 2021-07-23

Nationalism, national identity, and ethnicity are complex social phenomena worldwide and especially so in post-Soviet Ukraine. This monograph explores the causes and conditions of post-communist nationalist revivals focusing on the re-emergence of Cossack movements in Russia and Ukraine since the late 1980s. The study explores how different theories of nationalist movements underpinned different national policies and, ultimately, different socially constructed realities that led to the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives on Nationalism

Taras Kuzio 2007-12-17

This volume brings together 15
articles divided into four sections on the role of nationalism in transitions to democracy, the application of theory to country case studies, and the role played by history and myths in the forging of national identities and nationalisms. The book develops new theories and frameworks through engaging with leading scholars of nationalism: Hans Kohn's propositions are discussed in relation to the applicability of the term 'civic' (with no ethnocultural connotations) to liberal democracies, Rogers Brubaker over the usefulness of dividing European states into 'civic' and 'nationalizing' states when the former have historically been 'nationalizers', Will Kymlicka on the applicability of multiculturalism to post-communist states, and Paul Robert Magocsi on the lack of data to support claims of revivals by national minorities in Ukraine. The book also engages with 'transitology' over the usefulness of comparative studies of transitions in regions that underwent only political reforms, and those that had 'quadruple transitions', implying simultaneous democratic and market reforms, as well as state and nation building. A comparative study of Serbian and Russian diasporas focuses on why ethnic Serbs and Russians living outside Serbia and Russia reacted differently to the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the USSR. The book dissects the writing of Russian and Soviet history that continues to utilize imperial frameworks of history, analyzes the re-writing of Ukrainian history within post-colonial theories, and discusses the forging of Ukraine's identity within theories of 'Others' as central to the shaping of identities. The collection of articles proposes a new framework for the study of Ukrainian nationalism as a broader research phenomenon by placing nationalism in Ukraine.
within a theoretical and comparative perspective.

**Democracy and National Identity in Thailand** Michael Kelly Connors 2007 This revised and updated edition of the widely praised Democracy and National Identity in Thailand provides readers with a fascinating discussion of how debates about democracy and national identity in Thailand have evolved from the period of counter-insurgency in the 1960s to the current period. Focusing on state and civil society centered democratic projects, Connors uses original Thai language sources to trace how the Thai state developed a democratic ideology that meshed with idealized notions of Thai identity, focusing on the monarchy. The book moves on to explore how non-state actors have mobilized notions of democracy and national identity in their battle against authoritarian rule. It also invites readers to explore democratic ideology as a form of power aimed at creating ideal citizens able to support elite national projects.

**Identities and Politics During the Putin Presidency** Philipp Casula 2009-11-01 How could an undemocratic regime manage to stabilise Russia? What is Putin's success formula? What are the symbolic and discursive underpinnings of Russia's new stability? Many outside observers of Russia regarded the authoritarian tendencies during the Putin presidency as a retreat from, or even the end of, democratization. Rather than attempting to explain why Russia did not follow the trajectory of democratic transformation, this book aims to attain an understanding of the stabilization process during Putin's tenure as president. Proceeding from the assumption that the stability created under Putin is multi-layered, the authors attempt to uncover the
underpinnings of the new equilibrium, inquiring especially about the changes and fixations that occurred in the discourses on political and national identity. In doing so, the authors analyse the trajectories of the past years from the traditional perspective of transitology as well as through the lens of post-structuralist discourse theory. The two approaches are seen as complementary, with the latter focusing less on the end point of transition than on the nature of the mechanisms that stabilize the current regime. The book focuses on how nationalism became an increasingly important tool in political discourse and how it affected political identity. "Sovereign democracy" is seen by many contributors as the most explicit manifestation of a newfound post-Soviet identity drawing on nationalist ideas, while simultaneously appeasing most sectors of the Russian political spectrum.

Special Issue Ideology and National Identity in Post-communist Foreign Policies 2003

Globalisation and Historiography of National Leaders Joseph Zajda

2016-12-23 Globalisation and Historiography of National Leaders: Symbolic Representations in School Textbooks, the 18th book in the 24-volume book series Globalisation, Comparative Education and Policy Research, explores the interrelationship between ideology, national identity, national history and historical heroes, setting it in a global context. Based on this focus, the chapters represent hand-picked scholarly research on major discourses in the field of history textbooks and symbolic representations of national heroes, and draw upon recent studies in the areas of globalisation, history textbooks, and national leaders. A number of researchers have written on the importance of teaching national history in order
to foster national identity and a sense of belonging to a certain society, state, and people among the younger generation. Some nations prefer to create national heroes out of their political leaders who are still in power, and whose lives and reputation are portrayed as being eminently spotless. Using diverse comparative education paradigms from critical theory, social semiotics, and historical-comparative research, the authors analyse the unpacking of the ideological agenda hidden behind the choice and lionization (or silencing) of the preferred national heroes. They provide an informed critique of various historical narratives depicting national leaders and national heroes. The book provides an easily accessible, practical yet scholarly source of information on international concerns in the field of globalisation, history education and policy research. Offering an essential sourcebook of ideas for researchers, history educators, practitioners and policymakers in the fields of globalisation and history education, it also provides a timely overview of current changes in politically correct history education narratives in history textbooks.

Politics Without a Past Shari Jill Cohen 1997

National Identity and Foreign Policy Ilya Prizel 1998-08-13

Examining the recent history of Poland, Russia and Ukraine, this book examines how national identity affects foreign policy decisions.

"Soviet in Public, Azeri in Private" Nayereh Esfahlani Tohidi 1995 "This paper focuses on the intersection of gender, state socialism, nationality, and religion in Soviet and post-Soviet policy towards the "national question" and the "woman question" is demonstrated in the Muslim Azerbaijani context. It shows that although Muslim Azeri women have accomplished
an impressive level of emancipation, their overall status remain flawed with contradictions and duality. Similar to women of several other countries in the Muslim world confronting colonial domination or simi-colonial intrusion, Azeri women's liberation has been held hostage to their assigned responsibility as the primary repositories of tradition, ethnic and national identity. At the end, gender dynamics of recent changes and new search for national identity in the ethnically contested and war-stricken context of newly independent Azerbaijan is briefly explored."

Really Existing Nationalisms Erica Benner 2018-05-01 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.

Ethnicity and Conflict in a Post-Communist World Peter King 2016-07-27 The post-Communist world has seen a dramatic revival of ethnicity and nationalism. The volume explores the contemporary sources, scope and intensity of nationality conflicts in the context of a disintegrating Soviet Empire. The authors address themselves to the resurgence of ethnicity and nationalism within the former Soviet imperium, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria and China and examine the consequences of perestroika and glasnost. Central
issues involve identity formation, the nature and implications of ethnic and internal conflicts and possible paths toward resolution. National Identities in Soviet Historiography Harun Yilmaz 2015-02-20 Under Stalin’s totalitarian leadership of the USSR, Soviet national identities with historical narratives were constructed. These constructions envisaged how nationalities should see their imaginary common past, and millions of people defined themselves according to them. This book explains how and by whom these national histories were constructed and focuses on the crucial episode in the construction of national identities of Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan from 1936 and 1945. A unique comparative study of three different case studies, this book reveals different aims and methods of nation construction, despite the existence of one-party rule and a single overarching official ideology. The study is based on work in the often overlooked archives in the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan. By looking at different examples within the Soviet context, the author contributes to and often challenges current scholarship on Soviet nationality policies and Stalinist nation-building projects. He also brings a new viewpoint to the debate on whether the Soviet period was a project of developmentalist modernization or merely a renewed ‘Russian empire’. The book concludes that the local agents in the countries concerned had a sincere belief in socialism—especially as a project of modernism and development—and, at the same time, were strongly attached to their national identities. Claiming that local communist party officials and historians played a leading role in the construction of national narratives, this book will be of interest to historians and
political scientists interested in the history of the Soviet Union and contemporary Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.


Democracy and Myth in Russia and Eastern Europe Alexander Wöll 2007-10-18 In the absence of democratic state institutions, eastern European countries were considered to possess only myths of democracy. Working on the premise that democracy is not only an institutional arrangement but also a civilisational project, this book argues that mythical narratives help understanding the emergence of democracy without ‘democrats’. Examining different national traditions as well as pre-communist and communist narratives, myths are seen as politically fabricated ‘programmes of truth’ that form and sustain the political imagination. Appearing as cultural, literary, or historical resources, myths amount to ideology in narrative form, which actors use in political struggles for the sake of achieving social compliance and loyalty with the authority of new political forms. Drawing on a wide range of case studies including Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, this book argues that narratives about the past are not simply ‘legacies’ of former regimes but have actively shaped
representations and meanings of democracy in the region. Taking different theoretical and methodological approaches, the power of myth is explored for issues such as leadership, collective identity-formation, literary representation of heroic figures, cultural symbolism in performative art as well as on the constitution of legitimacy and civic identity in post-communist democracies.

**Contending for National Identity**
Min-Dong Paul Lee 2000

**The Return of Ideology**
Cheng Chen 2016-07-06 As Russia and China leave communism behind, they struggle to forge a new political ideology for a new era.

**The Little Czech and the Great Czech Nation**
Ladislav Holy 1996-08-28 Timely and insightful study of Czech nationalism and identity in the post-communist period.

**Branding Post-Communist Nations**
Nadia Kaneva 2011-08-26 Nation branding--a set of ideas rooted in Western marketing--gained popularity in the post-communist world by promising a quick fix for the identity malaise of "transitional" societies. Since 1989, almost every country in Central and Eastern Europe has engaged in nation branding initiatives of varying scope and sophistication. For the first time, this volume collects in one place studies that examine the practices and discourses of the nation branding undertaken in these countries. In addition to documenting various rebranding initiatives, these studies raise important questions about their political and cultural implications.

**The formation of Croatian national identity**
Alex Bellamy 2013-07-19 This electronic version has been made available under a Creative Commons (BY-NC-ND) open access license. This book assesses the formation of Croatian national identity in the 1990s. It develops a novel framework, calling into question
both primordial and modernist approaches to nationalism and national identity, before applying that framework to Croatia. In doing so, the book provides a new way of thinking about how national identity is formed and why it is so important. An explanation is given of how Croatian national identity was formed in the abstract, via a historical narrative that traces centuries of yearning for a national state. The book shows how the government, opposition parties, dissident intellectuals and diaspora groups offered alternative accounts of this narrative in order to legitimise contemporary political programmes based on different versions of national identity. It then looks at how these debates were manifested in social activities as diverse as football, religion, economics and language. This book attempts to make an important contribution to both the way we study nationalism and national identity, and our understanding of post-Yugoslav politics and society.

Politics and Legitimacy in Post-Soviet Eurasia Martin Brusis 2016-01-26 Political legitimacy has become a scarce resource in Russia and other post-Soviet states. Their capacity to deliver prosperity has suffered from economic crisis, war in Ukraine and confrontation with the West. Will nationalism and repression enable political regimes to survive? This book studies the politics of legitimization in Post-Soviet Eurasia.

Ethnicity and Nationalism in Russia, the CIS and the Baltic States Christopher Williams 1999

This book brings together scholars from Spain, the UK, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and the Ukraine to assess the reasons for the resurgence of nationalism in Russia, the CIS and the Baltic States. Ethnicity and Nationalism focuses on national policy in the communist period,
the role of different groups in the formation of post-communist national policy, the nature of the various types of nationalist ideologies and their impact on the formation of territorial and ethnic identity and finally this book assesses the socio-economic and political consequences of different types of national identity, ethnic conflict and growing nationalist sentiments on the democratisation process in Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine, Moldova, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Ethnicity and Nationalism presents Western readers with the latest information and analyses by experts from the region and the West. What clearly emerges is that debates surrounding ethnicity and nationalism in the former USSR are likely to remain a powerful force determining the nature and shape of many of the post-communist countries.

Special Issue Ideology and National Identity Post-communist Foreign Policies Rick Fawn 2003

Ideologies and National Identities
John R. Lampe 2004-01-10

Twentieth-century Southeastern Europe endured three, separate decades of international and civil war, and was marred in forced migration and wrenching systematic changes. This book is the result of a year-long project by the Open Society Institute to examine and reappraise this tumultuous century. A cohort of young scholars with backgrounds in history, anthropology, political science, and comparative literature were brought together for this undertaking. The studies invite attention to fascism, socialism, and liberalism as well as nationalism and Communism. While most chapters deal with war and confrontation, they focus rather on the remembrance of such conflicts in shaping today's ideology and national identity.

What's Left? Michael Minkenberg 1995
The national question in contemporary Hungarian politics
Maximilian Spinner 2003-05-26
Seminar paper from the year 2002 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Region: Eastern Europe, grade: 1 (A), University of Birmingham (Centre for Russian and East European Studies), course: Graduate East European Politics, language: English, abstract: This essay discusses how the question of national minorities outside Hungary shaped Hungarian politics in the post-transition period.

Economic Nationalism in a Globalizing World
Eric Helleiner 2018-08-06
Is economic nationalism an outdated phenomenon in light of globalization? Economic Nationalism in a Globalizing World demonstrates the enduring, and even heightened, economic significance of national identities and nationalism in the current age. The volume’s contributors, pioneers in the reinterpretation of economic nationalism, explore diverse ways in which national identities and nationalism continue to shape contemporary economic policies and processes. The authors examine the question in a range of geographical contexts and issues: European Union food politics, competitiveness strategies in New Zealand, East Asian development strategies, Japanese liberalization, monetary politics in Quebec and Germany, and post-Soviet economic reforms. Together, the cases explore the policy breadth of nationalism. It is not just a "protectionist" ideology but is in fact associated with a wide variety of economic policies, including support for economic liberalization and globalization.

The Sources Of Russian Foreign Policy After The Cold War
Celeste A Wallander 2019-07-11
In this timely and pathbreaking volume, scholars in comparative
politics and international relations build upon earlier theoretical work on the interaction of domestic and international systems, applying it innovatively to the study of post-Soviet Russian policy and conduct. Individual chapters focus on regime type, leadership politics, interest group politics, nationalism as ideology, international conflict and threat, and international economic opportunities and constraints. The complex interplay between domestic and international factors is highlighted. Exploring both the origins and the outcomes of Russian policy and behavior, this book provides a telling measure of the direction and significance of political change since 1991.

National Identity and Partisan Polarization

Eric M. Uslaner 2022

National Identity and Partisan Polarization examines how national identity has become a central issue in political and social life across the world. Questions of identity--who should be counted as a "true member" of a society and who deserves assistance from the government--have displaced other social and economic issues across nations in many countries. This study considers the role of identity theoretically and in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Poland, Israel, and Taiwan.

Identity varies over time and over countries. Some such as Sweden have a more "inclusive" sense of identity--one does not need to be born in the country or have ancestry to be considered a "true Swede." Other countries, such as Austria, France, Hungary, Poland, Israel, and Taiwan, have a more "exclusive" notion of identity--where one was born and a common heritage (race, religion, ethnicity) are seen as essential for seeing others as "true" members of society. "Outsiders" are viewed
negatively, often as threatening a national culture and not deserving of government assistance. In the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, the major political parties take opposing positions on identity. In the United States and the United Kingdom, issues of identity have become highly correlated (polarized) with social and economic issues. In the former Communist countries of Hungary and Poland, the dominant parties have taken nationalist positions on identity but favor generous welfare policies for people of their own background. In Israel and Taiwan, social and economic issues have become less important than nationalism.

Ideology and National Identity in Post-communist Foreign Policies

Rick Fawn 2004-03-01

A comparative analysis of the foreign policies of eight post-communist states which considers the extent to which official communist ideology has been replaced by nationalism and establishes how these states express their national identities through foreign policy.

Political Culture and Political Change in Post-communist Societies V. A. Gutorov 1997

Ethnicity and Nationalism in East Central Europe and the Balkans Thanasis D. Sfikas 1999

This is a companion volume to Ethnicity and Nationalism in Russia, the CIS and the Baltic States. It brings together scholars from the UK, Poland, Slovakia, Belgium, Greece Bulgaria and the USA to examine the legacy left by decades of communist rule and to assess the importance of the revival of ethnicity and nationalism for the fate of the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and of the Balkans as they approach the millennium. A wide range of
viewpoints are presented on the key issues of national identity, state formation, nationalist ideology and the issue of territorial and ethnic identity. Different theories are outlined and differences and similarities in the process of nation building discussed. The latest research findings are presented and Western readers are offered insights via a series of comprehensive studies of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania, Croatia and Albania. As with its companion volume, this book demonstrates the difficulties of creating modern nation states in war-torn ex-Yugoslavia or in the post-communist countries of East-Central Europe.

Reinventing Russia Yitzhak M. BRUDNY 2009-06-30 What caused the emergence of nationalist movements in many post-communist states? What role did communist regimes play in fostering these movements? Why have some been more successful than others? To address these questions, Yitzhak Brudny traces the Russian nationalist movement from its origins within the Russian intellectual elite of the 1950s to its institutionalization in electoral alliances, parliamentary factions, and political movements of the early 1990s. Brudny argues that the rise of the Russian nationalist movement was a combined result of the reinvention of Russian national identity by a group of intellectuals, and the Communist Party's active support of this reinvention in order to gain greater political legitimacy. The author meticulously reconstructs the development of the Russian nationalist thought from Khrushchev to Yeltsin, as well as the nature of the Communist Party response to Russian nationalist ideas. Through analysis of major Russian literary, political, and historical writings,
and monuments, the infiltration of 'corrupting' Western values, and ultimately under Gorbachev the 'criminal' destruction of Russian power. Much of the book concentrates on how Khrushchev and Brezhnev tried--but ultimately failed--to harness this discontent for their own purposes. --Robert Legvold, Foreign Affairs Reviews of this book: Brudny's survey of relations between Russian nationalism and the Soviet state provides an in-depth insight into one of the most complicated aspects of the Soviet multinational state. --Taras Kuzio, International Affairs Reviews of this book: A thought-provoking book. --Virginia Quarterly Reviews of this book: Brudny shows that Russian cultural nationalism was a powerful force in the post-Stalin years, with ultimate political consequences. In meticulous detail Brudny sets out the various strains of Russian nationalism and points to the regime's encouragement of a certain kind of nationalism as a means of bolstering legitimacy through the 'politics of inclusion'...This volume is a significant contribution to the literature. --R. J. Mitchell, Choice Reviews of this book: In Reinventing Russia, situated at the intersection of culture (specifically the literature of the village prose movement) and politics, Brudny has managed admirably to draw out the wider implications of his inquiry and provided an extremely useful set of orientation points in the current, seemingly so chaotic, political debate in Russia. --Hans J. Rindisbacher, European Legacy Reviews of this book: Brudny's book paints a fascinating picture. It delineates a rich Soviet culture and society, one that is much more varied than has been previously depicted by most Western researchers. The overriding importance of the book derives from its argument
that the post-Stalinist cultural debate in the Soviet Union is what created the infrastructure for the seemingly odd alliance between communist ideology and the nationalist intelligentsia—today's 'red-brown' alliance. It's a significant contribution to our understanding of the history of the nationalist idea...[Reinventing Russia provides] an enthralling overview of a historic development that has been neglected by most Western researchers...His book proves once more that anyone who seeks to understand developments in Eastern Europe cannot do so by merely analyzing the economic policy of the political maneuvers of the governing elite. --Shlomo Avineri, Ha'aretz Book Review

Yitzhak Brudny offers us a most persuasive attempt to explain the intricate, often puzzling relation between Soviet political and cultural bureaucracy and the rise of Russian nationalism in the post-Stalin era. His analysis of Russian nationalist ideology and its role in the corrosion of the official Soviet dogmas is uniquely insightful and provocative. Students of Soviet and post-Soviet affairs will find in Brudny's splendidly researched book an indispensable instrument to grasp the meaning of the still perplexing developments that led to the breakdown of the Leninist state. In the growing body of literature dealing with nationalism and national identity, this one stands out as boldly innovative, theoretically challenging, and culturally sophisticated. --Vladimir Tismaneanu, University of Maryland, College Park, author of Fantasies of Salvation Yitzhak Brudny has produced an impressive and scholarly account of the divisions within the Russian political and cultural elite during the last four decades of the Soviet Union's existence. His book is important both for the fresh light it throws on that
period and as essential context for interpreting the debates on
nationhood and statehood which rage in Russia today. --Archie
Brown, University of Oxford
Reinventing Russia provides us with a vivid portrayal of the
politics behind the rise of Russian nationalism in post-Stalinist
Russia. It is a finely detailed study of not only the relationship
of political authority to the spread of nationalist ideas, but also
reciprocally of the role played by these ideas in shaping the
political. --Mark Beissinger, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Rival nationalists literally shook the Soviet Union apart. The very
structure of the Soviet state encouraged all major ethnic
groups--including the Russians--to view battles over resources in
terms of ethnic and national conflict. Brudny, in this
important study, explores precisely how rival nationalist
claims emerged during the years following Stalin's death, and why
they proved to be simultaneously so robust and pernicious. --Blair
Ruble, Director, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center
National Ideology Under Socialism Katherine Verdery
1995-09-14 The current transformation of many Eastern European societies is impossible to understand without comprehending the intellectual struggles surrounding nationalism in the region. Anthropologist Katherine Verdery shows how the example of Romania suggests that current ethnic tensions come not from a resurrection of pre-Communist Nationalism but from the strengthening of national ideologies under Communist Party rule.
Soviet and Post-Soviet Identities
Mark Bassin 2012-04-26 A fresh look at post-Soviet Russia and
Eurasia and at the Soviet historical background that shaped the present.
Regime Transition in Central Asia Dagikhudo Dagiev
2013-10-30 Presenting a study of regime transition, political transformation, and the challenges that faced the post-Communist republics of Central Asia on independence, this book focuses on the process of transition in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and the obstacles that these newly-independent states are facing in the post-Communist period. The book analyses how in the early stages of their independence, the governments of Central Asia declared that they would build democratic states, but that in practice, they demonstrated that they are more inclined towards authoritarianism. With the declaration of independence, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, like many other former Soviet national republics, were faced with the issues of nationalism, ethnicity, identity and territorial delimitation. This book looks at how the discourse of patrimonial nationalism in post-Communist Tajikistan and Uzbekistan has been the elites’ strategy to address all these issues: to maintain the stateness of their respective countries; to preserve the unity of their nation; to fill the ideological void of post-Communism; to prevent the rise of Islam; and to legitimize their authoritarian practice. Arguing against the claim that the Central Asian states have undergone divergent paths of transition, the book discusses how they are in fact all authoritarian, although exhibiting different degrees of authoritarianism. This book provides a useful contribution to studies on Central Asian Politics and International Relations.

Extreme Politics Charles King
2010-01-14 Why do some violent conflicts endure across the centuries, while others become dimly remembered ancient struggles among forgotten peoples? Is nationalism really the
powerful force that it appeared to be in the 1990s? This wide-ranging work examines the conceptual intersection of nationalist ideology, social violence, and the political transformation of Europe and Eurasia over the last two decades. The end of communism seemed to usher in a period of radical change—an era of "extreme politics" that pitted nations, ethnic groups, and violent entrepreneurs against one another, from the wars in the Balkans and Caucasus to the apparent upsurge in nationalist mobilization throughout the region. But the last twenty years have also illustrated the incredible diversity of political life after the end of one-party rule. Extreme Politics engages with themes from the micropolitics of social violence, to the history of nationalism studies, to the nature of demographic change in Eurasia. Published twenty years since the collapse of communism, Extreme Politics charts the end of "Eastern Europe" as a place and chronicles the ongoing revolution in the scholarly study of the post-communist world.

Contending Conceptions of Nation and State in Postcommunist Russian Politics

Michael E. Urban 1992

Britons Linda Colley 2005-01-01

"Controversial, entertaining and alarmingly topical ... a delight to read." Philip Ziegler, Daily Telegraph