The Politics of Protest in Hybrid Regimes

Since the end of the Cold War, more and more countries feature political regimes that are neither liberal democracies nor closed authoritarian systems. Most research on these hybrid regimes focuses on how elites manipulate elections to stay in office, but in places as diverse as Bolivia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Thailand, Ukraine, and Venezuela, protest in the streets has been at least as important as elections in determining the fate of governments. The Politics of Protest in Hybrid Regimes builds on previously unpublished data and extensive fieldwork in Russia to show how one high-profile hybrid regime manages political competition in the workplace and in the streets. More generally, the book develops a theory of how the nature of organizations in society, state strategies for mobilizing supporters, and elite competition shape political protest in hybrid regimes.

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The Politics of Protest in Hybrid Regimes

Managing Dissent in Post-Communist Russia

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To George and Ena Robertson,
for their example, encouragement, and unconditional love.
“[a scholar] begins timidly, moderately, he begins by asking a most modest question: ‘is it not from here? Does not a certain country derive its name from that particular place? … He immediately quotes such and such ancient writers, and as soon as he detects some kind of a hint, or something that he believes to be a hint, he at once becomes emboldened and self-confident, talks to the writers of antiquity like an old friend, puts questions to them and supplies the answers himself, forgetting completely that he has begun with a timid supposition; he already believes that he can see it all, that everything is clear and his argument is concluded with the words: “So that is how it was …’. Then he proclaims it ex cathedra, for all to hear, and the newly discovered truth is sent traveling all over the world, gathering followers and disciples.”

~Nikolai Gogol, Dead Souls
Contents

List of Tables  xi
List of Figures  xiii
Acknowledgments  xv

Introduction  1
Hybrid Regimes  4
Russian Lessons and a Theory of Protest in Hybrids  6
Theoretical Implications  8
  Literature on Contentious Politics and Social Movements  8
Industrial Conflict  11
Hybrid Regimes and Repression  11
Politics in Russia through the Lens of Protest  13
Structure of the Book  16

1 Protest and Regimes: Organizational Ecology, Mobilization Strategies, and Elite Competition  18
How Regimes Affect Contention  19
  Protest in Democracies  19
  Protest in Closed Autocracies  20
  Protest in Hybrid Regimes  22
Organizational Ecology  24
State Mobilizing Strategies  30
Elite Competition  34
Summary of Regime Effects on Contention  35
How Contention Affects Regimes  38

2 Protest and Regime in Russia  40
Post-Communism and Protest  42
Data on Protest  44
What, Who, and Why  49
  Protest Repertoires  51
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protest Participants</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of the Demands Made</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Protests without Movements</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 The Geography of Strikes</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strike Patterns</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ecology of Organizations and Protest</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor: Trading Cooperation for Survival</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Partnership at the Regional Level</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobilization Strategies, Elite Competition, and Strike Patterns</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypotheses and Measures</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Power</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Resources</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Explanations: Business Cycles, Information, and Hardship</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strike Data</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Models and Results</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Forms of Protest</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Realities and Hybrid Regimes</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 A Time for Trouble</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protest and Time</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonetization, Wage Arrears, and Protest</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center-Periphery Conflict Over Rules and Resources</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primakov’s Appointment and Protest Dynamics</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Elections and the Decline of Protest</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Protest and the Paradox of the 1999 Elections</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theories of Protest Decline</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putin’s Political Strategy and Protest Decline</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parallel Elections and the Separation of the National and the Local</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denationalizing Protest</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Bandwagons, Protest, and Regime</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Vladimir Putin and Defeat-Proofing the System</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporating Labor into the “Vertical”</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlisting the Regional Political Machines</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defeat-Proofing the Electoral System</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A New Electoral Party of Power</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Product Differentiation: Sponsored Parties</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Insertion of Veto Points</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Problems, Sources of Weakness</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contents

### 7 Protest, Repression, and Order from Below
- Managing Contention in Hybrids 167
- Putin, Protest, and Print Dresses 170
- The Response: Coercion and Channeling 174
  - Coercion 178
  - Channeling 179
- After the Revolution: The New Politics of the Streets 183
- Coercion in Russia: Brezhnev and Putin 188
- Channeling under Putin 190
  - Licensing Civil Society 192
  - Filling the Organizational Space: Ersatz Social Movements 194
- Russian Repression in the Broader Context 197

### 8 Implications for Russia and Elsewhere
- Implications for Other Cases 200
- Social Movements, Political Opportunities and Repression in Hybrids 207
- Implications for Russian Politics 210
- Democratization from the Ground Up? 212

### Bibliography
- Appendix 1 Event Protocol 237
- Appendix 2 Sectoral and Seasonal Strike Patterns 269
- Appendix 3 A Statistical Approach to Political Relations 275
- Index 279
Tables

1.1. Summary of Regimes and Their Contention ........................................ page 36
1.2. Organizational Ecology, State Mobilizing Strategies, and Elite Competition in Post-Communist Russia 37
2.1. Repertoires of Protest in Russia, 1997–2000 54
3.1. Variation in Working Days Lost to Strikes by Region, 1997–2000 70
3.2. Summary of Hypotheses and Measures 86
3.3. Working Days per Month Lost to Strikes in Non-Mining Sectors 89
3.4. Determinants of Non-Strike Protest Events 95
4.1. Protest Mobilization in Russian Regions: Strikes 114
4.2. Determinants of Participation in First Protest Wave (1997) – Logistic Regression 115
5.1. Effect of Putin's Popularity on Protest Events 135
5.2. Weekly Event Diffusion, January 1997–June 1999 143
5.3. Weekly Event Diffusion in July–December 1999: Geography and Politics 144
8.1. Varieties of Contention in Hybrid Regimes 204
A2.1. Sectoral Breakdown of Working Days Lost to Strikes 270
A2.2. Breakdown of Strikes Outside of Education, Health, and Mining 270
A2.3. Industrial Strikes 271
A2.4. Service Sector Strikes Outside Health and Education 272
A2.5. Strikes in the Budget and Non-Budget Sectors 273
A3.1. Determinants of the MKF Renaissance Index of Governors’ Relations with Moscow 276
Figures

2.1. MVD and Goskomstat estimates of working days lost to strikes, 1997–2000  
2.2. International strike comparisons, 1997–2000  
2.3. Participants in protest events, 1997–2000  
2.4. Workers protests by sector, 1997–2000  
2.5. Participants in protest events excluding workers, 1997–2000  
2.7. Demands other than for payment of legal obligations made at protest events in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000  
2.9. Scope of demands excluding payment of legal obligations made at protest events in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000  
2.10. Number of demonstrators in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000  
3.1. Regional variation in strike intensity in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000  
4.1. Working days lost to strikes in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000  
4.2. Patterns of days lost to strikes and hunger strikes in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000  
4.3. Patterns of protest events in the Russian Federation, 1997–2000
4.5. Strikes in 1998–1999 wave regions only 116
5.2. Working days lost to strikes in the Russian Federation, 1999–2000 129
A2.1. Seasonal patterns outside of education 273
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