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0521806690 - Redeeming the Communist Past: The Regeneration of Communist Parties in East Central Europe

Anna M. Grzymala-Busse

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Redeeming the Communist Past

This major study examines one of the most surprising developments in East Central European politics after the democratic transitions of 1989: the completely unexpected regeneration of the former communist parties. After the collapse of the communist regimes in 1989, these ruling communist parties seemed consigned to oblivion. However, confounding scholarly and popular expectations, all of them survived, and some have even returned to power.

This in-depth, comparative study systematically analyzes the trajectories of four cases: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary (with additional examination of other authoritarian party successors). Relying on extensive and unprecedented primary research, this analysis employs a consistent analytical framework that combines the peculiarities of the postsocialist cases with broad theoretical concerns of institutional analysis, party politics, and democratic transitions and consolidation.

ANNA M. GRZYMAŁA-BUSSE is assistant professor of political science at Yale University. Her doctoral dissertation was awarded the Gabriel Almond Award for Best Dissertation in Comparative Politics by the American Political Science Association.

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ANNA M. GRZYMAŁA-BUSSE

Yale University



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*For my Parents,
Dobrośława and Jerzy*

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	Organization	Translation
AWS	Akcja Wyborcza Solidarność	Electoral Action Solidarity (Poland)
BSP	Balgarska Socialisticheska Partija	Bulgarian Socialist Party
ČSSD	Česká Strana Sociálně Demokratická	Czech Social Democratic Party
DL	Demokratická Levice	Democratic Left (Czech)
DS	Demokratická Strana	Democratic Party (Slovakia)
DSP	Demokratická Strana Prace	Democratic Party of Labor (Czech)
DU	Demokratická Únia	Democratic Union (Slovakia)
Fidesz	Fiatal Demokraták Szövetsége	Alliance of Young Democrats (Hungary)
FKGP	Független Kisgazdapárt	Independent Smallholders' Party (Hungary)
FSN	Frontul Salvării Nationale	National Salvation Front (Romania)
HSD- SMS	Hnutí za samosprávnou demokracii-Společnost pro Moravu a Slezsko	Movement for Self- Governing Democracy- Association for Moravia and Silesia
HZDS	Hnutie za Demokratické Slovensko	Movement for a Democratic Slovakia
KDH	Křesťansko-demokratické Hnutie	Christian Democratic Movement (Czech)

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KDNP	Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt	Christian Democratic Party (Hungary)
KDU- ČSL	Křesťansko-demokratická Unie-Česka Strana Lidová	Christian Democratic Union-Czech People's Party
KLD	Kongres Liberalno- Demokratyczny	Liberal-Democratic Congress (Poland)
KPN	Konfederacja Polski Niepodległej	Confederation for an Independent Poland
KPRF	Komunisticheskaya Partia Rossiskoy Federatsii	Communist Party of the Russian Federation
KSČ	Komunistická Strana Československa	Communist Party of Czechoslovakia
KSČM	Komunistická Strana Čech a Moravy	Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (Czech Republic)
LPR	Liga Polskich Rodzin	League of Polish Families
MDF	Magyar Demokrata Fórum	Hungarian Democratic Forum
MIEP	Magyar Igazság és Élet Pártja	Hungarian Life and Justice Party
MKP	Magyar Kommunizta Párt	Hungarian Communist Party
MP	Munkáspárt	Workers' Party (Hungary)
MSzMP	Magyar Szocialista Munkás Párt	Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party
MSzOSz	Magyar Szakszervezetek Országos Szövetsége	Confederation of Hungarian Trade Unions
MSzP	Magyar Szocialista Párt	Hungary Socialist Party
ODA	Občanská Demokratická Aliance	Civic Democratic Alliance (Czech)
ODS	Občanská Demokratická Strana	Civic Democratic Party (Czech)
OPZZ	Ogólnopolskie Porozumienie Związków Zawodowych	All-Polish Alliance of Trade Unions
PC	Porozumienie Centrum	Center Alliance (Poland)
PDS	Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus	Party of Democratic Socialism (Germany)

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PDSR	Partidul Democrației Sociale din România	Party of Social Democracy in Romania
PiS	Prawo i Sprawiedliwość	Law and Justice (Poland)
PO	Platforma Obywatelska	Civic Platform (Poland)
PPP	Polska Partia Przyjaciół Piwa	Polish Beer Lovers' Party
PPS	Polska Partia Socjalistyczna	Polish Socialist Party
PSL	Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe	Polish Peasants' Party
PSSH	Partia Socialiste ë Shqipërisë	Socialist Party of Albania
PUS	Polska Unia Socjaldemokratyczna	Polish Social Democratic Union
PZPR	Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza	Polish United Workers' Party
RLP	Ruch Ludzi Pracy	Movement of People of Labor (Poland)
SDK	Slovenská Demokratická Koalícia	Slovak Democratic Coalition
SDL	Strana Demokratické Levice	Party of the Democratic Left (Czech)
SDĽ	Strana Demokratickej Ľavici	Slovak Party of the Democratic Left
SdRP	Socjaldemokracja Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej	Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland
SDSS	Sociálnodemokratická Strana Slovenska	Social Democratic Party (Slovakia)
SED	Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands	Socialist Unity Party of Germany
SLB	Strana Levý Blok	Left Bloc Party (Czech Republic)
SNS	Slovenska Narodná Strana	Slovak National Party
SLD	Sojusz Lewicy Demokratycznej	Democratic Left Alliance (Poland)
SOP	Strana Občianského Porozumienia	Party for Civic Understanding (Slovak)
SPR- RSČ	Sdružení Pro Republiku- Republikanská Strana Česka	Association for the Republic-Republican Party of the Czech Republic

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SzDSz	Szabad Demokraták Szövetsége	Alliance of Free Democrats (Hungary)
SZS	Strana Zelených na Slovensku	Green Party of Slovakia
SZSP	Socjalistyczny Związek Studentów Polskich	Socialist Union of Polish Students
UD	Unia Demokratyczna	Democratic Union (Poland)
UP	Unia Pracy	Labor Union (Poland)
US	Unie Svobody	Freedom Union (Czech)
UW	Unia Wolności	Freedom Union (Poland)
ZChN	Zjednoczenie Chrześcijańsko- Narodowe	Christian-National Alliance (Poland)
ZKP	Związek Komunistów Polskich “Proletariat”	Union of Polish Communists “Proletariat”
ZRS	Združenie Robotníkov Slovenska	Association of Slovak Workers
ZSL	Zjednoczone Stronnictwo Ludowe	United Peasants’ Party (Poland)

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