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Elements in Contentious Politics

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THE EVOLUTION OF AUTHORITARIANISM AND CONTENTIOUS ACTION IN RUSSIA

Bogdan Mamaev

Griffith University



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Bogdan Mamaev

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Bogdan Mamaev
Griffith University

Author for correspondence: Bogdan Mamaev, b.mamaev@griffith.edu.au

Abstract: This Element examines the evolution of authoritarianism in Russia from 2011 to 2023, focusing on its impact on contentious action. It argues that the primary determinant of contention, at both federal and regional levels, is authoritarian innovation characterized by reactive and proactive repression. Drawing on Russian legislation, reports from human rights organizations, media coverage, and a novel dataset of contentious events created from user-generated reports on Twitter using computational techniques, the Element contributes to the understanding of contentious politics in authoritarian regimes, underscoring the role of authoritarianism and its innovative responses in shaping contentious action.

Keywords: authoritarianism, contentious politics, repression, protest, Russia

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Explaining Authoritarianism and Contentious Action	5
3	Methodology	19
4	Authoritarian Innovation and Contentious Action in Russia	32
5	Conclusion	80
	References	85