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978-1-107-03553-9 - Why Communism Did Not Collapse: Understanding Authoritarian Regime

Resilience in Asia and Europe

Edited by Martin K. Dimitrov

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Why Communism Did Not Collapse

Understanding Authoritarian Regime Resilience in Asia and Europe

This volume brings together a distinguished group of scholars working to address the puzzling durability of communist autocracies in Eastern Europe and Asia, which are the longest-lasting type of nondemocratic regime to emerge after World War I. The volume conceptualizes the communist universe as consisting of the ten regimes in Eastern Europe and Mongolia that eventually collapsed in 1989–1991 and the five regimes that survived the fall of the Berlin Wall: China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba. Taken together, the essays offer a theoretical argument that emphasizes the importance of institutional adaptations as a foundation of communist resilience. In particular, the contributors focus on four adaptations: of the economy, of ideology, of the mechanisms for inclusion of potential rivals, and of the institutions of vertical and horizontal accountability. The volume argues that when regimes are no longer able to implement adaptive change, contingent leadership choices and contagion dynamics make collapse more likely. By conducting systematic paired comparisons of the European and Asian cases and by developing arguments that encompass both collapse and resilience, the volume offers a new methodological approach for studying communist autocracies.

Martin K. Dimitrov is an associate professor of political science at Tulane University. He is also an associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard and a Research Fellow at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. Dimitrov previously taught at Dartmouth College and has held residential fellowships at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard, the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, and the American Academy in Berlin. He is the author of *Piracy and the State: The Politics of Intellectual Property Rights in China* (Cambridge, 2009).

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*Understanding Authoritarian Regime
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Edited by

MARTIN K. DIMITROV

Tulane University



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CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10013-2473, USA

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It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107651335

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First published 2013
 Reprinted 2013

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Why communism did not collapse : understanding authoritarian regime resilience in Asia and Europe / [edited by] Martin K. Dimitrov, Tulane University.
 pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-03553-9 (hardback) – ISBN 978-1-107-65113-5 (pbk.)

1. Post-communism – Europe. 2. Post-communism – Asia. 3. Former communist countries – Politics and government. I. Dimitrov, Martin K., 1975–

HX45.W49 2013

320.53 2095–dc23 2012047911

ISBN 978-1-107-03553-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-65113-5 Paperback

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Acknowledgments

This volume has been long in the making. I first began to think through the question of communist resilience and collapse in a seminar on the 1989 revolutions that I taught in 2005 at Dartmouth College. In 2006, Elizabeth Perry and I co-organized a memorable roundtable on communist resilience at Harvard University. The conversation continued later that year in a second roundtable I organized for the APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. In 2007, I convened at Dartmouth the conference “Why Communism Didn’t Collapse: Understanding Regime Resilience in China, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea, and Cuba.” Most of the chapters in this volume were initially drafted for that conference. In the years since, during which the volume took final shape, Jorge Domínguez, Grzegorz Ekiert, Allan Stam, William Alford, and Elizabeth Perry offered invaluable feedback and advice. The scholarly communities at the Davis Center at Harvard, at the Fairbank Center at Harvard, at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, at the Woodrow Wilson Center, at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, at the American Academy in Berlin, and at Tulane University offered hospitable and intellectually stimulating environments in which to conceptualize, draft, and complete the volume. I am deeply grateful for their support. At Cambridge University Press, I want especially to thank Lew Bateman for his guidance and unflagging enthusiasm for the project. In all kinds of ways, this book is better because of the care and attention Nancy Hearst lavished on it. My family in the United States and in Europe made everything easier with their love. Most of all, I am grateful to the authors whose chapters make up the volume. Their thinking, hard work, and patience made the project possible. This book is for them.

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Abbreviations

ACFIC	All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce
AMVR	Archive of the Ministry of the Interior (Bulgaria)
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BCP	Bulgarian Communist Party
CC	Central Committee
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CPSU	Communist Party of the Soviet Union
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FDI	foreign direct investment
FEZ	free economic and trade zone
FPM	Popular Front of Moldova
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	gross domestic product
GDR	German Democratic Republic
GONGO	government-organized NGO
HRS	household responsibility system (China)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INF	Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
IRI	International Republican Institute
KGB	Soviet Committee on State Security
KOR	Workers' Defense Committee (Poland)
KWP	Korean Workers' Party
<i>LPS</i>	<i>Logic of Political Survival</i>
LSG	leading small group (China)
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment (Vietnam)
NA	National Assembly
NEP	New Economic Policy (Soviet Union)

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Abbreviations

NGO	nongovernmental organization
NPC	National People's Congress (China)
PBSC	Politburo Standing Committee (China)
PCI	Provincial Competitiveness Index (Vietnam)
PCOM	People's Committee (Vietnam)
PL	political liberalization
PLA	People's Liberation Army (China)
PRC	People's Republic of China
ROK	Republic of Korea
RSFSR	Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic
RTsKhIDNI	Russian Centre for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Most Recent History
S	selectorate
SAIC	State Administration for Industry and Commerce (China)
SMA	Shanghai Municipal Archive
SOE	state-owned enterprise (China)
TsDA	Central State Archive (Sofia)
TsKhSD	Center for Preservation of Contemporary Documentation (Russia)
TVE	township and village enterprise (China)
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VCP	Vietnamese Communist Party
W	winning coalition
WPK	Workers' Party of Korea
WTO	World Trade Organization