

## Post-Communist Democracies and Party Organization

Scholars of post-communist politics often argue that parties in new democracies lack strong organizations – sizable membership, local presence, and professional management – because they don't need them to win elections and organizations may hinder a party's flexibility and efficiency in office. *Post-Communist Democracies and Party Organization* explains why some political parties are better able than others to establish themselves in new democracies and excel at staying unified in parliament, whereas others remain dominated by individuals or wither away altogether. Focusing on the democratic transitions in post-communist Europe from 1990 to 2010, Margit Tavits demonstrates that the successful establishment of a political party in a new democracy crucially depends on the strength of its organization. However, not all parties invest in organization development. Tavits finds that when parties recognize the potential of organization building, it is often the result of pragmatic professional leaders and particularly competitive, even hostile, electoral environments. This book uses data from ten post-communist democracies, including detailed analysis of parties in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, and Poland.

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# Post-Communist Democracies and Party Organization

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