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978-1-107-05417-2 - Historical Legacies of Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe

Edited by Mark R. Beissinger And Stephen Kotkin

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## Historical Legacies of Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe

This book takes stock of arguments about the historical legacies of communism that have become common within the study of Russia and Eastern Europe more than two decades after communism's demise and elaborates an empirical approach to the study of historical legacies revolving around relationships and mechanisms rather than correlation and outward similarities. Eleven chapters by a distinguished group of scholars assess whether postcommunist developments in specific areas continue to be shaped by the experience of communism or, alternatively, by fundamental divergences produced before or after communism. Chapters deal with the variable impact of the communist experience on postcommunist societies in such areas as regime trajectories and democratic political values; patterns of regional and sectoral economic development; property ownership within the energy sector; the functioning of the executive branch of government, the police, and courts; the relationship of religion to the state; government language policies; and informal relationships and practices.

Mark R. Beissinger is Henry W. Putnam Professor of Politics at Princeton University and director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies. He previously served on the faculties of Harvard University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Beissinger is the author or editor of four books and numerous journal articles. His book *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State* (Cambridge, 2002) won several awards, including the 2003 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award from the American Political Science Association.

Stephen Kotkin is the John P. Birkelund '52 Professor in History and International Affairs at Princeton University, where he has also served as vice dean of the Woodrow Wilson School and director of Princeton's Program in Russian and Eurasian Studies. He is the author of numerous books and publications, including *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization* (1995); *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970–2000* (2001); and *Uncivil Society: 1989 and the Implosion of Communist Establishments* (2009).

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### Advance Praise

“Mark R. Beissinger and Stephen Kotkin have assembled a who’s-who of scholars on Eastern Europe and Eurasia, many of whom made their careers in the era after the end of communist rule. The authors are therefore particularly adept at separating ‘historical legacies’ from plain history – examining the precise ways in which the habits of the past may (and may not) matter in such diverse areas as policing, property rights, and economic performance. This book reminds us why edited volumes – carefully crafted around a common theme – are still indispensable vehicles of scholarly communication.”

– Charles King, Georgetown University, author of *Extreme Politics: Nationalism, Violence, and the End of Eastern Europe*

“Total system state socialism is gone, but politics across Eurasia continue to contend with Leninist legacies. And no wonder: state socialism was an earth-changing experiment in social engineering. *Historical Legacies of Communism in Russia and Eastern Europe* takes careful stock of how these legacies matter (and, alternatively, how they fade from significance). Representing the best of historically informed social science, this book is conceptually innovative, empirically grounded, contextually sensitive, and intellectually provocative. Its wide range of cases invites serious thinking about how the socialist period will continue to shape our world.”

– Edward Schatz, University of Toronto

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Edited by

**MARK R. BEISSINGER**

*Princeton University*

**STEPHEN KOTKIN**

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