

Constraining Elites in Russia and Indonesia

This is a thought-provoking analysis on why democracy succeeds in some countries but not others, comparing the post-transition experiences of two cases of contemporary democratization: Russia and Indonesia. Following authoritarian regimes, democracy eroded in Russia but flourished in Indonesia – so confounding dominant theories of democratization that predicted the opposite outcomes based on their levels of socioeconomic development and histories of statehood.

Identifying key behaviours and patterns of political participation as a factor, Lussier interweaves ethnographic interview and quantitative public opinion data to expand our understanding on how mass political participation contributes to a democracy's survival. The integration of both micro- and macro-level data in a single study is one of this project's most significant contributions, and will enhance its appeal to both researchers and instructors.

Danielle N. Lussier is an assistant professor in political science at Grinnell College, Iowa. Her research focuses on democratization, public opinion and political participation, and religion and politics, with a particular emphasis on Eurasia and Indonesia. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Democracy*, *Politics and Religion*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, and *Slavic Review*.

Constraining Elites in Russia and Indonesia

Political Participation and Regime Survival

DANIELLE N. LUSSIER

Grinnell College



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For John

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Note about Referencing Interview Subjects

The forthcoming analysis is based largely on interviews I conducted with 100 citizens from Russia and Indonesia, as well as on about 140 expert interviews with scholars, journalists, and representatives of political parties, nongovernmental organizations, and civic associations in these two countries. The interviews with ordinary citizens were conducted anonymously. Throughout the text, I refer to these subjects based on relevant demographic characteristics and do not disclose the dates of the interviews. Summary tables of these interview subjects can be found in Appendix B to Chapter 1.

My expert interviews involved varying degrees of confidentiality. In most instances, respondents were comfortable with full-name attribution, while in other instances the degree of confidentiality they requested depended on the content discussed. Yet, due to the current lack of protection for free speech in Russia, as well as the political sensitivity of the subject matter, I have decided to reduce the vulnerability of my expert respondents by not referencing them by name. In order to ensure balance in the text, I am treating my Indonesian expert respondents with the same level of confidentiality. Each expert interview is indicated by a specific number that corresponds to a description of the interview subject provided in a reference list at the end of this book. The descriptions are specific enough to communicate the general source of the information being cited, yet do not provide sufficient detail to reveal the identity of the interview subject.

Notes on Russian and Indonesian Language

Transliteration

Throughout the text, I use a modified version of the Library of Congress's transliteration system for the Russian language. In instances when a proper noun is commonly rendered in English with an alternate transliteration, such as "Yeltsin" instead of "El'tsin" or "Chechnya" instead of "Chechnia," I employ the more common form. When referencing secondary sources, I maintain the transliteration used in the specific source.

Acronyms

Throughout the text, I use acronyms for political parties and other organizations based on their formulation in the original language, with two exceptions. Western scholarship has long referred to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union using their English-language acronyms, USSR and CPSU, which I use here.

Indonesian Names

The use of surnames is not widespread in Indonesia. Many Indonesians use only one name, while others might have two or three names, one of which is usually a dominant name. Throughout the text, when only one name is used in reference to an Indonesian, the reader should infer that this is the prominent name of the respective individual.