

## Making Autocracy Work

Can meaningful representation emerge in an authoritarian setting? If so, how, when, and why? *Making Autocracy Work* identifies the tradeoffs associated with representation in authoritarian environments and then tests the theory through a detailed inquiry into the dynamics of China's National People's Congress (NPC, the country's highest formal government institution). Rory Truex argues that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is engineering a system of "representation within bounds" in the NPC, encouraging deputies to reflect the needs of their constituents, but only for non-sensitive issues. This allows the regime to address citizen grievances while avoiding incendiary political activism. Data on NPC deputy backgrounds and behaviors are used to explore the nature of representation and incentives in this constrained system. The book challenges existing conceptions of representation, authoritarianism, and the future of the Chinese state. Consultative institutions like the NPC are key to making autocracy work.

Rory Truex is Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. His research focuses on Chinese politics and authoritarian systems. His work has been published in top political science journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *The China Quarterly*, and featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He is the founder of the Princeton in Asia Summer of Service program, which annually sends Princeton undergraduates to rural China to run an English immersion program for local students. He currently resides in Philadelphia.

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## *Representation and Responsiveness in Modern China*

RORY TRUEX



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*To those who step out*

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