
Acemoglu's Model and the Reality: Dynamics of Economic and Political Power in the Former Soviet Union Countries

Gohar Yeranyan

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Dynamics of Economic and Political Power in the Former Soviet Union Countries

Libertas Paper 78, 48 pages, October 2013.

ISBN 978-3-937642-45-1 - e-book/PDF 4,99 EUR; e-book/Amazon Kindle version 4,99 EUR;

ISBN 978-3-937642-46-8 - Paper Edition 15,00 EUR

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The Book

This study, based on a Master thesis at the American University of Armenia, deals with a model of the Turkish-American economist Acemoglu, and tries answers on questions like "Under which circumstances democracy can prevail?" in the former Soviet Union countries (FSU). Six of them have been selected for this "detective story" among the descriptions of transition: Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine. But the models of public institutions and private groups' behaviour are different from country to country, and the effects of transition sometimes contraproductive - be it under the "big bang" or under "gradualism". Gohar Yeranyan investigates systematically the functions of the elite, the oligarchs, the interest groups, the system-immanent changes, inequality, the revolutionary potential (end the evolutionary possibilities). the wealth distribution - and the persistence of political institutions. In this context, she discusses different paths of political developments in the FSU reality, possible reasons of democratization, as well as the dynamic model by D. Acemoglu - one of the most promising economists today, as well as the role of incentives for the political and economic change in former Soviet Union countries, before giving an overview of economic development paths of the FSU countries (shock therapy versus gradualism).

She is clearly pleading for a EU-approached democracy which is more likely than any other system to keep the different interest groups balanced, and can create more GDP and popular wealth which is not only restricted to an oligarchy. This includes also that the different dates should also follow an outspoken social policy. A very refreshing book (from the EU or a US perspective, for example) - and a very necessary one (from the FSU states' view), and a very adequate one in view of the latest discussions in the EU's Eastern Partnership countries.

The Author



Gohar Yeranyan lives in Yerevan/Armenia and belongs to a new generation of future Armenian leaders. She studied first for her B.A. and M.A. in philosophy and psychology at Yerevan State University, with a Master thesis on Bergson's intuitivism, and then for another M.A. in Political Science and International Affairs at American University of Armenia (AUA). She stands for a cross-skilled approach to all scientific questions, like: philosophy + psychology (+ aspects of a mathematical approach) + political science + international relations. A member of the Non-Governmental-Organization "Democracy for Development", she has gained experience in work-life as a loan officer for a loan organisation, as a trainer for the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC), giving training in leadership and intercultural communication, and in a lectorship in the EU for scientific books.

The Content

Abstract .

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The possible reasons for democratization

The dynamic model by D. Acemoglu discussed for the FSU reality

The role of incentives for the political and economic change

The historical overview of economic development paths of the FSU countries
(shock therapy versus gradualism)

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