

Political Transformations in Central Europe: Democratization and backsliding since 1989 (6/9 ECTS)

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The seminar explores political transformations in Central Europe from the regime change in 1989 until today, thus covering processes of democratization, consolidation and backsliding that took place over the past 30 years. As a point of departure, the course starts with discussing the political nature of communist regimes across the region before 1989, and the high hopes for democratic transformation and consolidation in the early 1990s as part of the third wave of democracy. Further on, the role of Europeanization, the European Union's so-called transformative power, will be discussed as an important factor supporting the region's democratization. A balance of achievements and shortcomings of transformation after the EU accession will be drawn, leading into a discussion about recent deconsolidation trends and concerns regarding the quality of these countries' democracies as full-fledged member states of the European Union. Throughout the course, particular attention will be paid to the cases of Hungary and Poland, the former frontrunners of democratization currently under close scrutiny. The course closes by putting the current regional trends into a wider context of the ebb of the third wave of democracy and the challenges liberal democracies face globally.

GRADING

Research paper (10-15 pp. for 6 ECTS, 20-25 pp. for 9 ECTS):	50 %
Presentation (10 minutes):	30 %
Participation/Engagement:	20 %

TERMS

Students are requested to attend and participate in classes in order to get graded. **More than one absence will automatically lower your final grade after your point total is calculated,** unless you can ***document*** that **all** the absences are related to an illness and/or official university event. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 (a 1 becomes a 1.3, etc.). Late arrival and early departure will not be tolerated.

Policy on Academic Integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Your writing must be your own work. If you plagiarize egregiously on an assignment, you will fail the course. Simple rule of thumb: "If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism."

COURSE STRUCTURE

	Topic	Readings
1	What is democracy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert A. Dahl (1971), <i>Polyarchy</i>. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1-32. • Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl (1993), "What Democracy Is ... and Is Not" in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner eds. <i>The Global Resurgence of Democracy</i>. Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press. 39-52. • Samuel P. Huntington (1991), "Democracy's Third Wave". <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 2, No. 2. 12-34.
2	Transition paths from communism to democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Jowitt (1992), "The Leninist Legacy" in Ivo Banac ed., <i>Eastern Europe in Revolution</i>. Ithaca-London: Cornell University Press, 207-224. • Claus Offe (1997), <i>Varieties of Transition</i>. Cambridge: M. I. T. Press, 29-49. • Laszlo Bruszt – David Stark (1992), "Remaking the Political Field in Hungary" in Ivo Banac ed., <i>Eastern Europe in Revolution</i>. Ithaca-London: Cornell University Press, 13-55. • Jan T. Gross (1992), "Poland: From Civil Society to Political Nation" in Ivo Banac ed., <i>Eastern Europe in Revolution</i>. Ithaca-London: Cornell University Press, 56-71.
3	Democratic consolidation and its challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Bakke (2010), "Central and East European Party Systems since 1989" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. <i>Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989</i>. Cambridge: CUP. 64-90. • Konstanty Gebert (2010), "Poland since 1989: Muddling Through, Wall to Wall" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. <i>Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989</i>. Cambridge: CUP. 139-161. • András Bozóki - Eszter Simon (2010), "Hungary since 1989" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. <i>Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989</i>. Cambridge: CUP, 204-232.
4	The EU's role in democratization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulrich Sedelmeier (2010), "The EU and Democratization in Central and Southeastern Europe since 1989" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. <i>Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge U. P., 519-535.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathaniel Copsey (2013), "The EU and Central and East European Politics" in Stephen White, Paul. G. Lewis, Judy Batt eds. <i>Developments in Central and East European Politics</i> 5. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 102-118.
5	Post-accession developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gzegorz Ekiert – Jan Kubik – Milada Anna Vachudova (2007), "Democracy in the Post-Communist World: An Unending Quest?". <i>East European Politics and Societies</i>, Vol. 21, No. 1. 7-30. Jan Zielonka (2007), "The Quality of Democracy After Joining the European Union". <i>East European Politics and Societies</i>, Vol. 21, No. 1. 162-180. Béla Greskovits (2015), "The Hollowing and Backsliding of Democracy in East Central Europe". <i>Global Policy</i>, Vol. 6, Supplement 1. 28-38.
6	Deconsolidation in Hungary and Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bálint Magyar – Miklós Mitrovits (2017), "Parallel System Narratives – Polish and Hungarian regime formations compared" Part 1-3. Péter Krekó – Zsolt Enyedi (2018), "Orbán's Laboratory of Illiberalism". <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 29, No. 3. 39-51. Wojciech Przybylski (2018), "Can Poland's Backsliding Be Stopped?". <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 29, No. 3. 52-64.
7	Deconsolidation of liberal democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippe C. Schmitter (2015), "Crisis and Transition, But Not Decline". <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 26, No. 1. 32-44. Larry Diamond (2015), "Facing up the Democratic Recession". <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 26, No. 1. 141-155. Jacques Rupnik (2018), "The Crisis of Liberalism". <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 29, No. 3. 24-38.

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Bakke, Elisabeth (2010), "Central and East European Party Systems since 1989" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989*. Cambridge: CUP. 64-90.

Bozóki, András and Eszter Simon (2010), "Hungary since 1989" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989*. Cambridge: CUP, 204-232.

Bruszt, Laszlo and David Stark (1992), "Remaking the Political Field in Hungary" in Ivo Banac ed., *Eastern Europe in Revolution*. Ithaca-London: Cornell University Press, 13-55.

Copsey, Nathaniel (2013), "The EU and Central and East European Politics" in Stephen White, Paul. G. Lewis, Judy Batt eds. *Developments in Central and East European Politics 5*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 102-118.

Dahl, Robert A. (1971), *Polyarchy*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 1-32.

Gebert, Konstanty (2010), "Poland since 1989: Muddling Through, Wall to Wall" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989*. Cambridge: CUP. 139-161.

Diamond, Larry (2015), "Facing up the Democratic Recession". *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 26, No. 1. 141-155.

Ekiert, Gzegorz, Jan Kubik and Milada Anna Vachudova (2007), "Democracy in the Post-Communist World: An Unending Quest?". *East European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 21, No. 1. 7-30.

Greskovits, Béla (2015), "The Hollowing and Backsliding of Democracy in East Central Europe". *Global Policy*, Vol. 6, Supplement 1. 28-38.

Gross, Jan T. (1992), "Poland: From Civil Society to Political Nation" in Ivo Banac ed., *Eastern Europe in Revolution*. Ithaca-London: Cornell University Press, 56-71.

Huntington, Samuel P. (1991), "Democracy's Third Wave". *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 2, No. 2. 12-34.

Jowitt, Ken (1992), "The Leninist Legacy" in Ivo Banac ed., *Eastern Europe in Revolution*. Ithaca-London: Cornell University Press, 207-224.

Krekó, Péter and Zsolt Enyedi (2018), "Orbán's Laboratory of Illiberalism". *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 29, No. 3. 39-51.

Magyar, Bálint and Miklós Mitrovits (2017), "Parallel System Narratives – Polish and Hungarian regime formations compared" Part 1-3.

Offe, Claus (1997), *Varieties of Transition*. Cambridge: M. I. T. Press, 29-49.

Sedelmeier, Ulrich (2010), "The EU and Democratization in Central and Southeastern Europe since 1989" in Sabrina P. Ramet ed. *Central and Southeast European Politics since 1989*. Cambridge: Cambridge U. P., 519-535.

Przybylski, Wojciech (2018), "Can Poland's Backsliding Be Stopped?". *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 29, No. 3. 52-64.

Rupnik, Jacques (2018), "The Crisis of Liberalism". *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 29, No. 3. 24-38.

Schmitter, Philippe C. (2015), "Crisis and Transition, But Not Decline". *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 26, No. 1. 32-44.

Schmitter, Philippe C. and Terry Lynn Karl (1993), "What Democracy Is ... and Is Not" in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner eds. *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*. Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press. 39-52.

Zielonka, Jan (2007), "The Quality of Democracy After Joining the European Union". *East European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 21, No. 1. 162-180.