AUTHORITARIANISM

Central European University, Budapest
Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy, and International Relations
Course convenor: MATTEO FUMAGALLI (IR/PolSci)

Level: PhD
Semester: Fall
Credits: 2 (4 ECTS)
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Office hours: Friday 3.30-5pm
Class time and venue: Fridays 11-12.40 (room tbc)

Course outline
Why did the Tatmadaw (Myanmar’s Armed Forces) allow transition from direct military to civilian rule in 2011? Will North Korea’s regime *ever* collapse and if so what would change look like? What caused Russia’s de-democratization? What explains the roll-back (democratic backsliding)? How important are economic and non-economic factors in sustaining authoritarian rule? Do authoritarian states promote autocracy? These are some of the questions explored in this course.
With over half of the world’s population living under authoritarian rule and almost half of the countries understanding what authoritarian regimes are, how they function, why they endure and how they collapse are crucial questions to comparative political science. The course offers a comparative outlook to the study of authoritarianism, focusing on the varieties of this form of government, the factors sustaining it in terms of durability, resilience and governance, as well as the causes that might bring its breakdown. Attention will be paid to forms of neo-patrimonial rule and the institutional turn in the study of authoritarianism. Pathways from authoritarianism and the international dimension of authoritarianism will also be discussed. While striving to be global in outlook, empirically the course concentrates on the post-Soviet and Asian varieties of authoritarianism.

Aims
The course’s main aim is to enable students to:
- acquire a strong understanding of the difference between regime types (totalitarian, authoritarian, and democratic);
- become familiar with the varieties of authoritarian rule;
- learn about how authoritarian regimes exercise their power and sustain themselves;
- become exposed to a wide range of cases of authoritarian.
Learning outcomes
By the end of the course students will:
- acquire a firm understanding of the scholarship on non democratic rule, being able to distinguish between sub-types of authoritarianism;
- critically engage with the literature on (authoritarian) regime formation, consolidation and change;
- apply their knowledge of the theoretical concepts to empirical cases;
- distinguish between institutions and practices sustaining authoritarian governance.

Workload and assessment
- 20% Class participation and presentation: This requires you to have done the required reading and actively participate to the discussion. Class attendance is mandatory (1 un-excused absence is permitted). 1 short reaction paper (800-1,000 words) to be presented in class.
- 50%: 4,000-word research paper (you can swap the paper with 4 additional reaction papers, to be submitted weekly).
- 20%: Film review
- 10%: Online discussion

Deadlines
Film review: 31 October 2015 5pm
Online Discussion: 6 November 2015 5pm
Paper outline: 22 October 5pm
Paper: Monday 16 December 2015 5pm

Film review
3-page review of one of the following films
- Beyond Rangoon (1995; Director John Boorman)
- The Killing Fields (1984; Director Richard Joffé)
- Three days in August (1992; Director Jan Jung)

Background readings
This is not a requirement or a pre-requisite. However, familiarising yourself with the work below will help you get a sense of some of the issues discussed in the course.

H. Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism (1951), esp. Part III
P. Brooker (2000) Non-Democratic Regimes (Palgrave)

The following novels are interesting literary reflections on totalitarianism:
G. Orwell, 1984 (1949)
G. Orwell, Animal Farm (1945)
R. Bradbruy, Fahrenheit 451 (1953)
In fact… read this too, as it might come handy later on in the course (or in life):
G. Orwell ‘Politics and the English Language’
http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e_polit

Additional resources
This course makes use of the CEU e-learning platform (http://ceulearning.ceu.hu).

Weekly schedule

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Note: Friday 23 October is national holiday in Hungary and there is no class on that day. Moreover I will be away between 23 October and 8 November so no classroom activities will be held during those two weeks. However, course discussion will continue online.

Weekly readings

Week 1: Course overview

This session introduces the course. Course structure and aims, scheduling, presentations and other assignments are discussed.

Readings
Linz, Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes, ch. 1, pp. 49-63
Additional reading

Week 2 Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism

Does ideology matter in authoritarian regimes? How different are totalitarianism and authoritarianism?

Readings

Additional readings
H. Arendt (1951) The Origins of Totalitarianism, Part III Linz, ch. 2
P. Brooker, Non-democratic Governments, ch 2, pp. 7-21

Week 3 Sub-types of Authoritarianism

Who governs in authoritarian regimes? How many varieties of authoritarianism are there? Why does it matter? And to whom?

Required reading

Additional readings

Personal rule

Additional reading
M. Weber, Charismatic Authority, in Economy and Society Vol 1, pp. 241-249

One-party
Bureaucratic Authoritarianism
Linz, ch. 4, pp. 184-208
M. Weber, Traditional Authority, pp. 226-241

Military


**Week 4 Repression and Legitimacy**

Why do regimes resort to repression? What role does the military play in the making and unmaking of authoritarian regimes?

What are the sources of regime legitimacy and strategies of legitimation?

**Core readings**


**Additional readings**


Week 5 Institutions

The session discusses the role of seemingly democratic institutions in sustaining authoritarian rule, such as parties, elections, legislatures. Do they sustain or undermine autocracy? And how? How do dictators survive?

Readings

Additional readings
Week 6

PAPER OUTLINE DUE.

No CLASS!

Week 7

Film review is due on 31 October 5pm

*Online discussion on culture and authoritarianism*


Week 8 Political economy of authoritarianism

What’s the relationship between regime types and economic development? Can authoritarian regimes ensure economic growth and development? The session focuses on the debate on the economic dimension of authoritarian durability, most notably the notion of neopatrimonialism.

Required reading

Additional reading
M. Weber, Types of Legitimate Domination, ch, 3 esp. pp. 212-216
Additional reading
R. Robison, Authoritarian States, Capital- Owning Classes, and the Politics of Newly Industrializing Countries: The Case of Indonesia. World Politics, 41(1), 1988, pp. 52-74

**Brief discussion – elections in Myanmar**

Ian Holliday (2014) Addressing Myanmar’s Citizenship Crisis, Journal of Contemporary Asia, 44:3, 404-421,

**Week 9  Civil society and social contention**

What role does civil society have under authoritarian rule? Does the notion of pro-regime civil society even make sense? What is informal activism and how different is it from the politics of survival?

**Core readings**
Additional readings


Week 10 Contentious politics, opposition and revolutions

Why are some authoritarian regimes contentious whereas others are not? What is ‘online politics’ and how does it work? What’s the relationship between online and offline politics? Under what circumstances do revolutions happen?

Core readings


Additional readings

J. Scott Weapons of the Weak
J.A. Goldstone, Modern Revolutions? Yes They Are. Harvard International Review. February 27, 2008
Hale H.E. (2006) Democracy or autocracy on the march? The colored revolutions as

Week 11 International dimension of authoritarianism

Do authoritarian regimes promote autocracy? Do they even care about regime types? If so, through what mechanisms does autocracy diffusion occur?

Core Readings
Special issue of the *APSA-Comparative Democratization Newsletter*, 13(1), 2015 on ‘The international dimension of authoritarianism’). Essays of Wang, Tansey, Tolstrup, Ambrosio, Tao, Bunce and Hozic.

Week 12 Hybrid regimes and pathways from authoritarian rule

Apart from concluding the course, this session discusses the concept of hybrid regimes and explores possible pathways out of authoritarian rule. Succession and transfer of power are also discussed.

Readings

Additional readings


