Democracy, Dictatorship and the International System

University of Mannheim, Spring 2017
Tuesdays noon – 1:30 pm
Location: A 5,6 B 244

Instructor: Nikolay Marinov
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Course Description: Master-or PhD level seminar. How do different political regimes arise and change? This course will look at the different regime types in the world, their definitions, historical roots and evolution. Some of the main readings in political science on authoritarian regimes and their breakdown will be considered. Explaining authoritarian resilience and fragility will be a part of the course. The role of elections will be discussed. Emphasis is on concepts and arguments, not on memorizing mechanical facts.

Week 1


Week 2


Geddes - Changes in Democratization over time

Geddes - Role if Int’l Factors for Collapse of Authoritarian Regimes

Week 3
Chapters 1-2-3


**Week 4**


**Week 5**


Corrupting the Cyber-Commons: Social Media as a Tool of Autocratic Stability by Seva Gunit sky LINK

**Week 6**

Flores Nooruddin Book: pp.1-38

Chapters 1,3 and 5 in Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. Cambridge, New York, 2010
Week 7


AUTOMATIC CROWD ANALYSIS FROM VERY HIGH RESOLUTION SATELLITE IMAGES by Beril Sirmacek, Peter Reinartz German Aerospace Center (DLR), Remote Sensing Technology Institute, Germany In: Stilla U et al (Eds) PIA11. International Archives of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences 38 (3/W22) LINK

Week 8


The Effect of Labor Migration on the Diffusion of Democracy: Evidence from a Former Soviet Republic by Toman Barsbai, Hillel Rapoport, Andreas Steinmayr, Christoph Trebesch LINK

Week 9 Propaganda
“Electoral Effects of Biased Media Russian Television in Ukraine” by Leonid Peisakhin and Arturas Rozenas

“The Pathology of Propaganda” (paper on China in ILIAS)


“Will Democracy Survive Big Data and Artificial Intelligence?” Scientific American LINK

Week 10


Week 11


Paper MS (ILIAS): “International Isolation and Regional Inequality: Evidence from Sanctions on North Korea”

Week 12


Bubeck Marinov 2017 Process or Candidate? The International Community and the Demand for Electoral Integrity LINK