

middle class in this set of countries has been employed in the public sector for some period of time since 1991. Further, under a litany of specifications and robustness checks, Rosenfeld shows that the public sector middle class is definitively less committed to democracy than the private sector middle class; they are in fact closer to the working class in their political opinions about democracy. Further, using survey data collected from actual protestors during protests in Moscow from 2011 to 2013, Rosenfeld shows that the public sector middle class is also less likely to join protests than the private sector middle class—an important step linking middle class beliefs to their actual participation in the process of democratization.

*The Autocratic Middle Class* is a must-read for anyone interested in autocratic politics; its argument has critical implications for theories of not just democratization, but also public opinion and political economy. Further, the simplicity of the theory offers fertile ground for extensions and implications of this core contribution. For example, the empirical measure of the middle class looks specifically at white-collar workers with high levels of education. If the measure included the entrepreneurial middle class—small business owners—how might preferences be different? Further, despite the strong connection to the democratization literature, the macro-level implications of the theory remain untested—are autocracies with robust public sector middle classes actually more stable than autocracies with larger private sector middle classes? Does the overall size of the middle class matter, as many of the democratization theories contend—or is the breakdown of employment options sufficient to explain how beliefs about democracy sustain democratization? Taken together, *The Autocratic Middle Class* is a masterclass in the analysis of public opinion and an important contribution to the literature on autocratic politics and democratization.

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**Elections, Protest, and Authoritarian Regime Stability: Russia 2008–2020** by Regina Smyth. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2020. 268 pp. \$99.00.

It is right there in the title—the subject matter, of course, but also, more daringly, the theoretical ambition of Regina Smyth’s new book. The book is nothing less than an attempt to develop a theory that bridges a story of both regime and opposition strategies in authoritarian regimes in elections and between them, as well as to explain individual-level protest participation.

Smyth focuses closely on a case—Russia—that she knows extremely well and deploys both qualitative and quantitative data that she collected in that case. But the ambition of *Elections, Protest, and Authoritarian Regime Stability* is larger than explaining the dynamics of Russian politics over the last decades (as if that were not already a lot!). The goal is to develop a general theory of authoritarian elections and the regime openings and closings that accompany them through the construction of a neat formal model tested with both Russian data and existing cross-national data.

Like others before her, Smyth focuses on the information-revelation function of elections to drive her story. Elections in authoritarian regimes are, after all, a highly structured form of political theater in which both the regime and the opposition seek to play their roles in ways that signal strength rather than weakness. There has been much discussion in the literature about what constitutes a display of regime strength in authoritarian elections, but much less about opposition strategies. Smyth appropriately and elegantly combines the two into a single game that captures well some key realities of elections in authoritarian contexts. Perhaps most notably, Smyth goes beyond existing structural accounts to develop a theory that accounts for the ongoing and changing nature of regime/opposition interactions. Constructing or challenging a ruling majority is an iterated and uncertain process, and apparently stable regimes can be suddenly faced with existential crises arising from seemingly spontaneous challenges.

With its combination of theoretical rigor and rich detail, *Elections, Protest, and Authoritarian Regime Stability* is a must-read text for graduate students and other serious scholars of contemporary authoritarianism, as well as an interesting and accessible read for advanced undergraduates. It will be widely cited not only by scholars of Russia, but also people interested in authoritarian regimes around the world.

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**The Real Psychology of the Trump Presidency** by Stanley Renshon. New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020. 583 pp. \$34.99.

“The intense effort to make direct use of psychological and psychiatric theory for a clearly political purpose, to remove President Trump from office, is unprecedented” (p. 233), writes Stanley Renshon. And no one has done more serious writing and thinking about the connection between presidential personality and presidential performance than Renshon himself, a political scientist and psychoanalyst who has written in-depth psychological

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