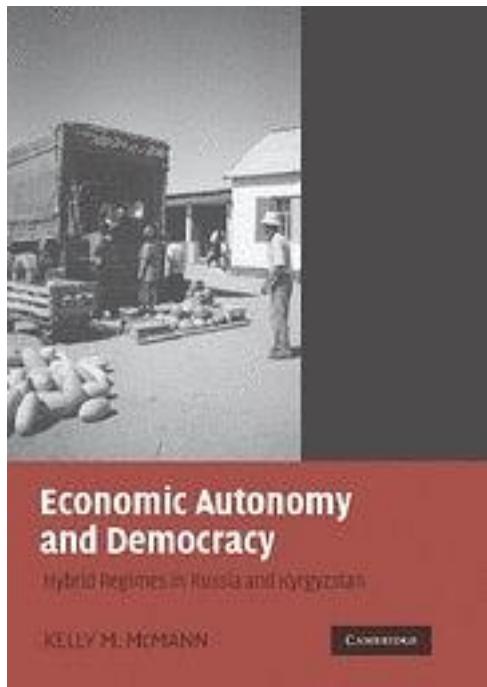


Economic Autonomy and Democracy



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著者:Kelly M. McMann

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How do individuals decide to exercise their democratic rights? This book argues that they first assess their economic autonomy, meaning their ability to make a living independent of government authorities. Before individuals consider whether their resources and organizational abilities are adequate to act on their interests, they calculate the risk of political activism to their livelihood. This is particularly evident in regions of the world where states monopolize the economy and thus can readily harass activists at their workplaces. Economic autonomy links capitalism and democracy through individuals' calculations about activism. Accounts of activists' decisions about establishing independent media, leading political organizations, and running for office and descriptions of government harassment in Russia and

Kyrgyzstan, along with examples from most regions of the world, illustrate these arguments. Economic autonomy and the interaction among democratic rights help explain the global proliferation of hybrid regimes, governments that display both democratic and authoritarian characteristics.

作者介绍:

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标签

经济

政治

吉尔吉斯斯坦

俄罗斯

评论

只读了第五章，从俄罗斯和吉尔吉斯斯坦各选取了两个城市进行对比研究。俄罗斯的Ulianovsk相对于Samara经济自主性较低，表现在商人对激进分子的暗地而非公开赞助，媒体不独立，激进分子进入政府部门工作就要放弃政治诉求。总之，政策决定了城市的差异。吉尔吉斯斯坦的Naryn相对于Osh经济自主性低在于前者史上游牧为主，人口稀散，没什么商业机会；而后者一直靠农耕贸易发家，苏联时代也没有过分工业化，作为边境贸易市场和发达的交通网络，外国资本和市场也让Osh有更多的经济自主性。总之，地理决定了城市差异。没有通读全书，经济自主性对民主的因果关系有多少难下评断，但篇末将几大地区民主化后不同的形态和遇到的挑战有点意思，还提到了中国。

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书评

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