

Explaining Regime Persistence in Kazakhstan and Tanzania: Dominant Party Strategy and Neo-Patrimonialism.

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The persistence of single-party dominance in states which have introduced multi-party rule is a topic that has attracted substantial academic attention in recent years. In face of the current and ongoing regime breakdowns in North Africa and the Middle East, understanding how and why some parties remain dominant is all the more important. Notwithstanding recent events, many countries, which made a political transition during the 1990s allowing more than one party to stand for elections a single party is able to dominate the political stage almost completely.

In this paper, I investigate and compare two such regimes, Tanzania and Kazakhstan, in order to investigate how dominant parties deal with potential challengers and remain in power. My argument is that there are similar mechanisms, which allow for dominant party persistence in these two cases, which might at first glance seem quite dissimilar. Intricate neo-patrimonial networks work in favour of the current regime.

The study is based on interview data from both countries collected during January – September 2010. Politicians, scholars and others who are knowledgeable were interviewed.