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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



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Democracy in Retreat?

Do Russia and China Promote Autocracy in their Neighbourhoods?

Berlin, 1 March 2011

Venue:

Vertretung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen beim Bund

Closing Conference for the DIE Research Project

**The Impact of Russia, India and China on Governance Structures
in their Regional Environments (RICGOV)**

funded by



The economic success of major non-democratic powers in recent years has triggered a new debate on whether these countries contribute to the rise of authoritarian rule also beyond their own borders. China and Russia in particular have been blamed for being directly responsible for a recent decline in democratic freedom worldwide. If these allegations are true, then this should have a tremendous impact on OECD governments' efforts to promote better governance or even democracy in many parts of the world. It also carries implications for the future governance of global issues such as climate change, world financial order or transnational security.

Against this background, the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) has conducted a 3-year research project analysing the impact of three emerging powers with rather different political systems – Russia, India and China – on governance structures in their regional neighbourhoods.

The conference will present the project's main findings – primarily focusing on the cases of China and Russia – to practitioners of democracy promotion and development cooperation in both governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as to a broader foreign policy community and invite comments from other experts in the field. It will engage all participants in a discussion of the possible implications for future foreign and development policy approaches with respect to both the engagement with China and Russia and the approach towards those countries in zones of influence of major emerging powers.

Programme

- 10:30–11:00 am *Welcome and introduction*
Dr. Jörg Faust (DIE)
- 11:00 am–12:30 pm *Session 1: Promoting autocracy: reasonable and possible?*
Would autocracies promote autocracy? A political economy perspective
Dr. Jörn Grävingholt (DIE)
What keeps authoritarian rule stable?
Prof. Oliver Schlumberger (Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany)
Comment: Prof. Aurel Croissant (University of Heidelberg, Germany)
Chair: Dr. Jörg Faust (DIE)
- 12:30–1:45 pm *Lunch break*
- 1:45–3:00 pm *Session 2: China in its neighbourhood*
The external exploitation of autocratic governments in China's region
Julia Bader (DIE)
Discussants: Sebastian Bersick (University College Cork, Ireland)
Chair: Prof. Oliver Schlumberger (Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany)
- 3:00–3:15 pm *Coffee break*
- 3:15–4:30 pm *Session 3: Russia in its neighbourhood*
Promoting autocracy and subverting democratisation in former Soviet republics
Antje Kästner (Free University Berlin, Germany)
Discussants: Prof. André Gerrits (University of Leiden, The Netherlands)
and Jakob Tolstrup (Aarhus University, Denmark)
Chair: Dr. Jörn Grävingholt (DIE)
- 4:30–5:30 pm *Session 4: Implications for democracy promotion*
Panel discussion
Panellist: Craig Fagan (Transparency International); Jacqueline Hale (Open Society Institute); Jürgen Stetten (Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin)
Chair : Dr. Jörg Faust (DIE)

Publications from the RICGOV Project

DIE-Briefing Paper

Grävingholt, Jörn / Julia Bader / Jörg Faust / Antje Kästner (2011): The influence of China, Russian and India on the future of democracy in the Euro-Asian region, Briefing Paper 2/2011 (also available in German as DIE Analysen und Stellungnahmen 3/2011)

Faust, Jörg / Christian Wagner (2010): India: a new partner in democracy promotion?, Briefing Paper 3/2010

Kästner, Antje (2010): Russia: supporting non-democratic tendencies in the post-Soviet space?, Briefing Paper 2/2010 (also available in German as DIE Analysen und Stellungnahmen 2/2010)

Bader, Julia (2010): Emerging powers in their regions: China's impact on its neighbours' political systems, Briefing Paper 1/2010 (also available in German as DIE Analysen und Stellungnahmen 1/2010)

DIE-Discussion Paper

Sushko, Oleksandr (2008): The impact of Russia on governance structures in Ukraine, Discussion Paper 24/2008

Kästner, Antje (2008): From chaos to pragmatism? The domestic dimension of Russian foreign policy 1991-2008, Discussion Paper 19/2008

Dosch, Jörn / Alexander L. Vuving (2008): The impact of China on governance structures in Vietnam, Discussion Paper 14/2008

Wagner, Christian (2008): Der Einfluss Indiens auf Regierungsstrukturen in Pakistan und Bangladesch, Discussion Paper 12/2008

Bader, Julia (2008): Innenpolitischer Wandel und seine Auswirkungen auf die Außenpolitik Chinas, Discussion Paper 4/2008

Other Publications

Bader, Julia / Jörn Grävingholt / Antje Kästner (2010): Would autocracies promote autocracy? A political economy perspective on regime-type export in regional neighbourhoods, in: *Contemporary Politics* 16 (1), 81-100

Bader, Julia / Antje Kästner (2010): Mehr Autokratie wagen? Russland und China als Konkurrenten westlicher Demokratieförderer, in: *Internationale Politik* 65 (3), 32-36

Faust, Jörg (2010): Demokratie und Dividende. Zum Mythos der wirtschaftlich "attraktiven Autokratien", in: *Internationale Politik* 65 (3), 26-30

All DIE-publications are available under <http://www.die-gdi.de>