

JEMIE Special Issue: August 2011

Still parading sovereignties' Nation-building and ethnic mobilization 20 years after the Soviet Union

Following a brief period of reform the Soviet Union fell apart within several days of the August 1991 coup d'Etat. The demise of the SU is said to have been caused by two related, yet distinct, dimensions of social change under way in Soviet society. On the one hand, efforts to reform the ways institutions deal with the dissenting public opinions allowed many citizens to air concerns on issues that the centralist regimes were unable to address. At the same time, those previously concerned with social welfare, began to rally around the issues of national identity. Regardless of the differences across the regions, states and groups public discontent shored up primordialist conception of ethnic solidarity.

This JEMIE special issue will cut across the board of the FSU states looking into the rhetoric invoking the national self-determination justifying postcommunist state policies. "Sovereignty" is listed among the primary arguments to avoid institutional reform despite the changes in the international opportunity structure, and independent expertise and advice are revoked when these were perceived to run against the goals of nation-building. How did this "parade of sovereignties" reconfigure the relationship between the majorities and the minorities in the newly independent states? What has improved for groups claiming to be the majorities in the states (re-)established in 1991? What has remained the same? What consequences came to bear on those finding themselves in numerical minority? Did minority groups develop novel strategies to reassert their position vis-à-vis the new state institutions?

The contributions to this JEMIE issue will make clear what policymakers, minority activists and academics hold of ethnic and cultural differences today. Do they continue to see them in exclusive primordialist terms? Have they tuned down the interethnic tensions in some regions, while decreasing interethnic accord in others? Are ethnic groups still understood as quasi-biological kinship communities? Do they still have reasons to mistrust state institutions serving another kin? Why are the relationships between the minority and the majority remain tense in some regions? What explains the continuous salience of ethnic issues? Has the potential for conflict over state territories and sovereignties declined?

We are looking for contributions that provide evidence of motifs that drive the groups across the FSU to continuously emphasise their 'innate' right for political, economic and moral sovereignty. The submitted articles should be around 8000 words. Following the publication of JEMIE special issue, the papers will be coming out in an edited volume with a University Press. If interested, please send a preliminary abstract of 500 words to Timofey Agarin t.agarin@ecmi.de by October 25.

Timeline

At latest 10 January 2011: Submission of first draft, followed by two reviews by peers,

At latest 14 March 2011: Papers returned to authors for revisions,

At latest 1 June 2011: Papers resubmitted to JEMIE, clarifications with authors,

At latest 1 August 2011: Final versions of papers returned for proofs, editing, formatting,

On 18 August 2011: Papers published online with JEMIE.

JEMIE — Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe is a peer-reviewed electronic journal edited under the auspices of the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI). JEMIE is a multi-disciplinary journal, which addresses minority issues across a broad range of studies, such as ethnopolitics, democratization, conflict management, good governance, participation, minority issues and minority rights. It is devoted to analysing current developments in minority-majority relations in the wider Europe, and stimulating further debate amongst academics, students and practitioners on issues of instability and integration that are hampering democratic development in Europe - both East and West. As an electronic journal, JEMIE aims to make scholarly debate available to as wide an audience as possible, providing easy access to cutting-edge academic literature and creating a forum where young scholars and practitioners can present their ideas alongside more established academics.

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