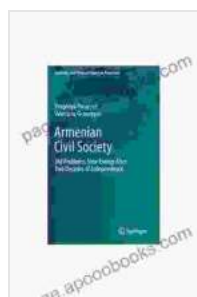


# Old Problems, New Energy After Two Decades of Independence: Societies and Governance in Central and Eastern Europe

The collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in 1989-1991 brought about tremendous political, economic, and social change. After two decades of independence, the region has made significant progress in many areas, but it also faces a number of ongoing challenges. This book examines the state of societies and governance in CEE after two decades of independence, identifying both the successes and the challenges that the region has faced.



## Armenian Civil Society: Old Problems, New Energy After Two Decades of Independence (Societies and Political Orders in Transition) by Stephanie Foxe

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3407 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 325 pages



## Old Problems

One of the most significant challenges facing CEE countries is the legacy of communism. The communist era left behind a number of problems,

including:

- **Weak institutions:** The communist regime centralized power and suppressed civil society. This left behind a weak and fragmented institutional structure, which has made it difficult for CEE countries to develop democratic and accountable governments.
- **Corruption:** Corruption was widespread in the communist era, and it remains a problem in many CEE countries. This has undermined public trust and made it difficult for governments to effectively implement policies.
- **Environmental degradation:** The communist regime neglected environmental protection, which led to widespread pollution and environmental damage. This has had a negative impact on public health and economic development.

## New Energy

Despite the challenges they face, CEE countries have also made significant progress since the fall of communism. This progress has been driven by a number of factors, including:

- **The European Union:** The European Union has played a major role in the development of CEE countries. The EU has provided financial assistance, technical expertise, and political support to CEE countries as they have worked to transition to democracy and market economies.
- **Civil society:** Civil society organizations have played a vital role in promoting democracy and accountability in CEE countries. These

organizations have worked to educate citizens about their rights, to monitor government actions, and to hold governments accountable for their promises.

- **Entrepreneurship:** Private entrepreneurs have been a major driving force of economic growth in CEE countries. These entrepreneurs have created new jobs, invested in new technologies, and helped to integrate CEE countries into the global economy.

## Challenges Ahead

Despite the progress that has been made, CEE countries continue to face a number of challenges. These challenges include:

- **Economic inequality:** Economic inequality has increased in many CEE countries since the fall of communism. This has led to resentment and social unrest.
- **Political extremism:** Political extremism has emerged as a challenge in some CEE countries. This extremism has been fueled by economic inequality, social unrest, and the rise of populism.
- **Environmental challenges:** CEE countries continue to face environmental challenges, such as air pollution, water pollution, and climate change. These challenges will require significant investments in clean energy and other environmental technologies.

The two decades since the collapse of communism in CEE have been a time of both progress and challenge. CEE countries have made significant progress in developing democratic and market economies, but they continue to face a number of challenges. These challenges include

economic inequality, political extremism, and environmental degradation. Addressing these challenges will require continued cooperation between CEE countries, the EU, and other international partners.

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the state of societies and governance in CEE after two decades of independence. It identifies both the successes and the challenges that the region has faced, and it offers recommendations for how to address the challenges that lie ahead.

**Keywords:** Central and Eastern Europe, communism, democracy, European Union, governance, independence, new energy, old problems, societies



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