

# The State of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe

*The State of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe* brings together scholars specialising in the study of Central and Eastern Europe, and provides a comprehensive analysis of some of the major issues in the democratic make-up of the EU's new member states. The book covers the main dimensions of the ~~state~~, and contributors discuss questions about the development of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe over the past twenty years.

What is the present state of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe more than twenty years since the end of communist regimes? What is the actual functioning of the political institutions of these countries? How is political participation structured, and what role do political parties play in these democracies? What guarantees are provided to limit governmental powers and abuse? What is the role of the judicial system, and the relationship between justice and politics? How can we evaluate the EU's influence regarding democratic consolidation? What is the role of the public opinion?

This book was originally published as a special issue of *Europe-Asia Studies*.

**Ramona Coman** is ~~Assitant~~ Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for European Studies, at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. Her research interests relate to Europeanisation, European integration and judicial reforms in the new member states of the EU.

**Luca Tomini** is ~~an~~ FNRS Postdoctoral Researcher at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. His main research interests are democracy and democratisation in a comparative perspective.

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**The State of Democracy in Central  
and Eastern Europe**

A Comparative Perspective  
*Edited by Ramona Coman and  
Luca Tomini*



# The State of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe

A comparative perspective

*Edited by*

**Ramona Coman and Luca Tomini**

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**Andrew Roberts** is Associate Professor of Political Science, and Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research, at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, USA. His research focuses on three major themes: the quality of democracy, defined as the nature and strength of links between citizens and policymakers; the politics of social policy reforms; and the workings of formal political institutions. Much of his work on these issues looks at the new democracies of Eastern Europe, which he frequently compares to established democracies in Western Europe and North America. In 2009 he published *The Quality of Democracy in Eastern Europe: Public Preferences and Policy Reform*, which looks at the issues of electoral accountability, policy responsiveness, and mandate responsiveness in ten Eastern European countries. He has published several articles on political institutions and the reform of social policy in *Comparative Political Studies*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Public Policy*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Comparative Politics* and *Party Politics*.

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