

Understanding the Great Transition in Central and Eastern Europe -

25 years after 1989



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Twenty years after regime change swept across the former Soviet Bloc and contrary to the widely held hopes and expectations at that time, liberal democracy has emerged and taken roots only in a small number of postcommunist countries. In the majority of former communist states, political transformations have either lost their momentum and resulted in partially democratic systems, or have been reversed and brought new authoritarian regimes. While capitalism was adopted more eagerly than democracy, its forms and qualities differ fundamentally across the region as well. Hence the fundamental puzzles of post-communist politics: What are the causes of the extraordinary diversity of political and economic outcomes across the region? Why there is no convergence among historical sub-regions in this part of Europe, despite similar starting points? Why the impact of the communist legacy has been uneven? In his presentation Professor Ekiert will review political and economic developments in the region since 1989 and examine the ways in which scholars and researchers analyzed and explained the diverging trajectories of post-communist transformations.

11 February 2014 (Tuesday), 16.30 - 18.00

Social Sciences Chamber, 11/F,

The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU

Details and registration:

<http://ppa.hku.hk/p/grzegorz-ekiert>



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