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# Social Movements in Post-Communist Europe and Russia

Edited by **Kerstin Jacobsson, Steven Saxonberg**

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This volume provides a much needed update on the state of civil society in post-communist Europe and Russia more than two decades after the fall of the communist regimes. The chapters offer new perspectives on social movement strategies in post-communist Central-Eastern Europe and Russia. The chapters illustrate how social movements develop particular repertoires of action and contention, which are better suited for their specific local contexts in the post-communist setting. In Russia and Poland, the use of domestic and transnational legal opportunities, judicial activism and litigation is a popular strategy complementing the traditional lobbying and mass mobilization. Human rights framing has become important in Hungary and the Czech Republic. The chapters analyse various types of rights-based activism that operate in otherwise prohibitive social and political environments, thereby raising highly contentious issues, such as animal rights, environment and sustainability, human rights, women's rights, and gay rights activism. The contributions richly illustrate the often surprising and multiple ways in which transnational discourses and norm pressure are received, translated or resisted in the local contexts. Finally, the volume provides a novel reconceptualisation and offers new understandings of the relationships between the state and civil society in the post-communist context.

This book is based on a special issue of *East European Politics*.

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## Author Biography:

**Kerstin Jacobsson** publishes widely in the field of political sociology, including studies of social movements in Central and Eastern Europe. Her most recent book is *Beyond NGO-ization: The Development of Social Movements in Central and Eastern Europe* (edited with Steven Saxonberg, Ashgate, 2013).

**Steven Saxonberg** has published extensively about the collapse of communism and the development of post-communist social policies and social movements. His recent books are: *Gendering Family Policies in Post-Communist Europe: A Historical-Institutional Analysis* (Palgrave, forthcoming) and *Transitions and Non-Transitions from Communism: Regime Survival in China, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

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