User’s guide to the book


The book is divided into two parts. The first part consists of 120 propositions, summarizing the conceptual framework, its main concepts and typologies. This part contains only in-text references to books and papers, with the title, date of publication, and the name of the author(s). No footnotes are included in this part: a QR-code at the beginning of the Notes points to the bibliography of the *Anatomy*, containing the literature used to develop the conceptual framework presented in this book.

QR-codes will be placed along the text. The first one, on this page, points to the website of the authors, [www.postcommunistregimes.com](http://www.postcommunistregimes.com). Courtesy of Knowledge Unlatched, the *Anatomy* is open-access, and it can be downloaded for free from the website. The website also contains further related materials, including a 3D model of regime trajectories and the draft of a seminar with PowerPoint presentations for MA or PhD level. QR-codes in the book will point to either a presentation of the seminar, or the 3D model.

The theoretical framework consists of ideal types, in the mold of Max Weber. While empirical examples will be provided to orient the reader, the main point of the concepts in this book is to serve as points of reference. They are models: “pure,” utopic depictions of actors, institutions, and dynamics, which can be used to describe their real world counterparts in terms of congruence and deviance. For example, we will associate Estonia with “liberal democracy,” and Russia and Hungary with “patronal autocracy.” This does not mean these countries always work according to their ideal types, or that their actions conform to
the model with no exceptions. But using an ideal type for them means to under-
line the dominant logic and forms of political, economic, and social organization
in these countries. Indeed, the concepts in this book are created, not by taking
into account every feature of real world phenomena but only some of the dis-

tinctive ones, which are arranged in a pure and ideal form—as Weber writes—
into a unified analytical construct.

This book provides, not simply concepts for understanding post-communism,
but aspects of analysis. Each typology in the book should be seen as attempts
to find, between the various types, the relevant dividing lines which by them-
selves are just as important for comparative analysis as the types. The importance
of clear-cut analytical concepts is highlighted in the book by the high number
of tables and figures, each containing main concepts and the analytical aspects
that distinguish them.

The second part of the book is an application of the conceptual framework, with
the modelled trajectories of twelve post-communist countries. These trajecto-
ries are painted with a broad brush; we explain how they were constructed
in brief “country studies,” but these should not be seen as real case studies,
only as illustrative sketches. They were made for the purpose of orientation
and illustration, to show the reader how the analytical framework can be used
to describe post-communist developments in the last thirty years. A precise,
quantitative description of the trajectories can be found on the book’s website
(Supplementary Material / Appendix).