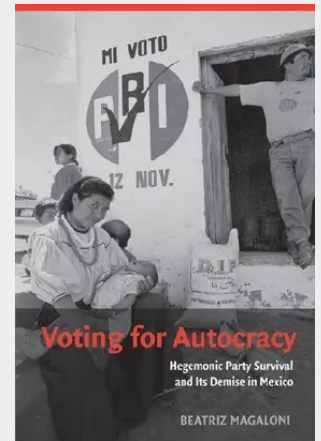


Voting for Autocracy

This book provides a theory of the logic of survival of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), one of the most resilient autocratic regimes in the twentieth century. An autocratic regime hid behind the facade of elections that were held with clockwork precision. Although their outcome was totally predictable, elections were not hollow rituals. The PRI made millions of ordinary citizens vest their interests in the survival of the autocratic regime. Voters could not simply 'throw the rascals out of office' because their choices were constrained by a series of strategic dilemmas that compelled them to support the autocrats. The book also explores the factors that led to the demise of the PRI. The theory sheds light on the logic of 'electoral autocracies', among the most common type of autocracy, and is the only systematic treatment in the literature today dealing with this form of autocracy.

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133,70 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780521862479

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-521-86247-9

Verlag: Cambridge University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 15.03.2012

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2012

Serie: Cambridge Studies in
Comparative Politics

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 662 g

Seiten: 312

Format (B x H): 157 x 235 mm

