The editor of this book has brought together contributions designed to capture the essence of post-communist politics in East-Central Europe and Eurasia. Rather than on the surface structures of nominal democracies, the nineteen essays focus on the informal, often intentionally hidden, disguised and illicit understandings and arrangements that penetrate formal institutions. These phenomena often escape even the best-trained outside observers, familiar with the concepts of established democracies. Contributors to this book share the view that understanding post-communist politics is best served by a framework that builds from the ground up, proceeding from a fundamental social context.

The book aims at facilitating a lexical convergence; in the absence of a robust vocabulary for describing and discussing these often highly complex informal phenomena, the authors wish to advance a new terminology of post-communist regimes. Instead of a finite dictionary, a kind of conceptual cornucopia is offered. The resulting variety reflects a larger harmony of purpose that can significantly expand the understanding the “real politics” of post-communist regimes.

Countries analyzed from a variety of aspects, comparatively or as single case studies, include Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine.

From the publisher’s website: http://ceupress.com/book/stubborn-structures

Table of Contents
I. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

Henry E. Hale: Freeing Post-Soviet Regimes from the Procrustean Bed of Democracy Theory

János Kornai: The System Paradigm Revisited: Clarification and Additions in the Light Of Experiences in the Post-Communist Region

Oleksandr Fisun: Neopatrorialism in Post-Soviet Eurasia

Bálint Magyar: Towards a Terminology for Post-communist Regimes

II. ACTORS OF POWER

Nikolay Petrov: Putin's Neo-Nomenklatura System and its Evolution

Mikhail Minakov: Republic of Clans: The Evolution of the Ukrainian Political System

Uladzimir Rouda: Is Belarus a Classic Post-Communist Mafia State?

László Nándor Magyari: The Romanian Patronal System of Public Corruption

III. TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS

Zoltán Sz. Bíró: The Russian Party System


Miklós Haraszti: Illiberal State Censorship: A Must-have Accessory for Any Mafia State

Dumitru Minzarari: Disarming Public Protests in Russia: Transforming Public Goods into Private Goods

IV. WEALTH AND OWNERSHIP

Andrey Ryabov: The Institution of Power and Ownership in the Former U.S.S.R: Origin, Diversity of Forms, and Influence on Transformation Processes

Ilja Viktorov: Russia's Network State and Reiderstvo Practices: The Roots to Weak Property Rights Protection after the post-Communist Transition

Bálint Magyar: From Free Market Corruption Risk to the Certainty of a State-Run Criminal Organization (using Hungary as an example)

V. CONTRASTS AND CONNECTIONS

Alexei Pikulik: Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine as Post-Soviet Rent-Seeking Regimes

Sarah Chayes: The Structure of Corruption: A Systemic Analysis

Kálmán Mizsei: The New East European Patronal States and the Rule-of-Law

Bálint Magyar: Parallel System Narratives—Polish and Hungarian Regime Formations Compared