

Military reforms comparative analysis in former Soviet states

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1 Introduction

- Unpreparedness of former Soviet states military forces for the new military-political reality;
- The probability of the “big war” declined. Local military conflicts became possible on the territory of the former socialist block;
- Common past and similarities in political and economic development

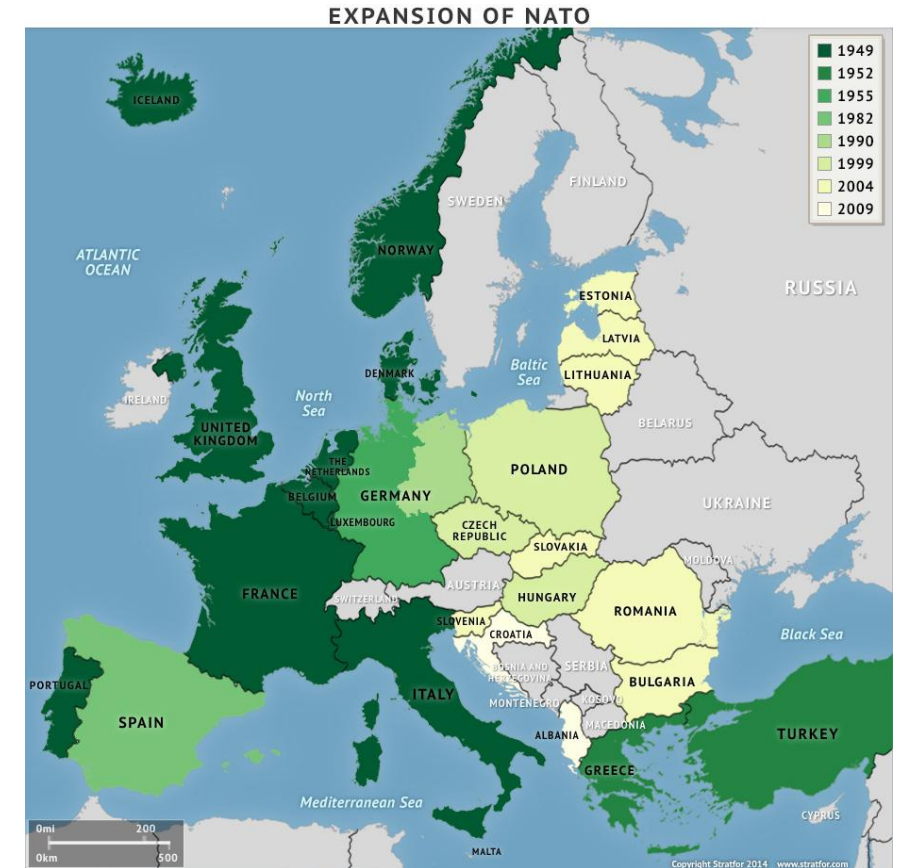


Different defense policy strategies



Object and Subject

- **Object of study** - military reforms in former USSR republics (Estonia, Latvia, Belorussia, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan) in the period from 1991 to 2004;
- **Subject of study** – political determinants of military reforms in chosen states in the period from 1991 to 2004.
- Time period - the 5th NATO enlargement, when most western former socialist countries entered this military alliance.



Research Question and Scientific Relevance

- *What political factors are determinants for creation and implementation of military reforms in selected countries?*
- Systematization and comparison of military reforms in post-soviet states;
- Complete analysis of all post-socialist states military reforms would make possible to create a model of defense policy in post-socialist states

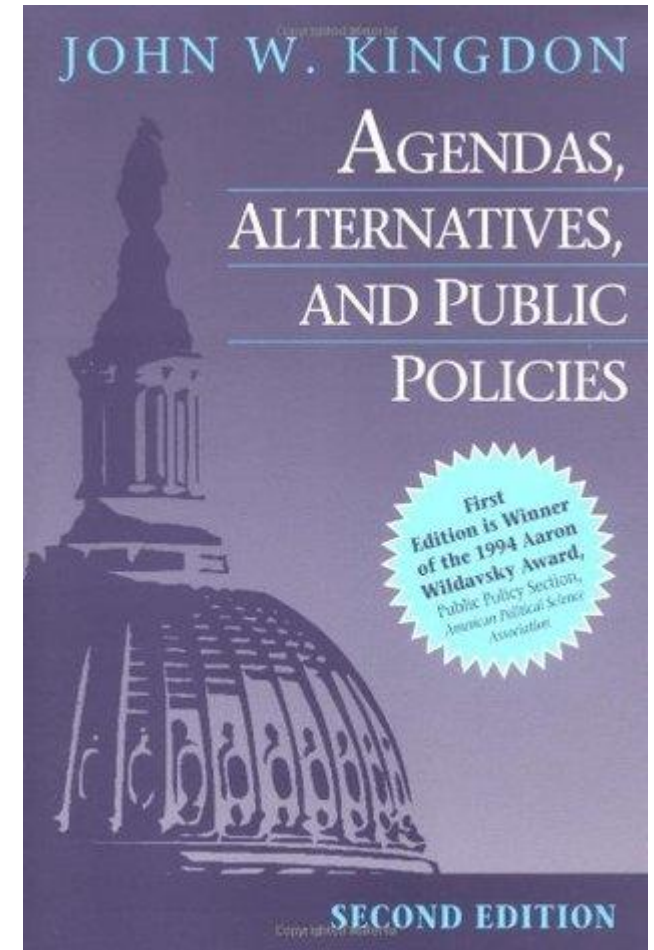


Hypothesizes

1. If countries population on the referendum was in favor of the national sovereignty, the policies would be aimed at reforming the Armed Forces on the Western counterparts and preparing their integration into the North Atlantic Alliance;
2. If the countries population on the referendum was in favor of the preservation of the Soviet Union, the political course aimed at maintaining the status quo and the absence of major changes in the armed forces of the former Soviet republics;
3. If a country has seen separatist tendencies and militarization of certain political forces, the political course aimed at strengthening control over the Armed Forces and de-politicization;
4. The change of ruling authority in selected countries would not lead to the change of defense policy.

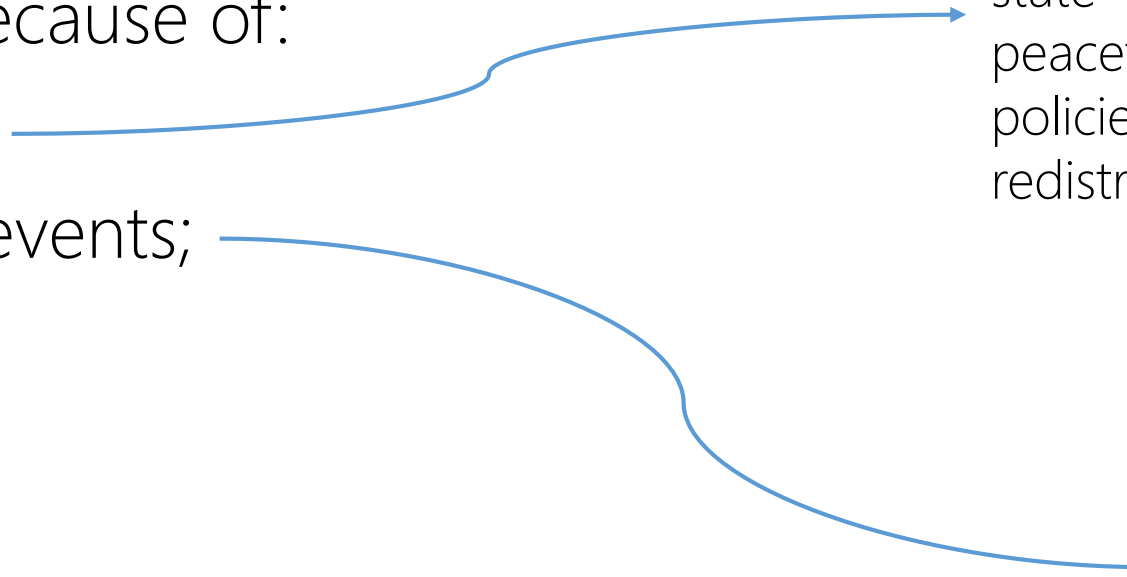
Methodological Framework

- Multiple streams framework consists of *policy windows*, *political entrepreneurs* and 3 streams:
 - *Problem stream* - constantly emerging problems;
 - *Policy stream* – “soup” of policies, reforms;
 - *Politics stream* – national mood, pressure groups and actors.



Problem stream

- Problem stream consists of socially important problems. Problems are noticed because of:
- Indicators;
- Focusing events;
- Feedback.



Big defense expenditure rate in the state budget during peacetime can cause policies aimed at the redistribution of costs.

Russian war with Georgia in 2008 as one of the key events that influenced the further reform of the Russian Armed Forces.

Policy stream

- "Garbage can" – policy proposals, made by scientists, government officials, politicians etc.;
- The choice of the solution: technical implementation requirements and agreement of the majority of experts on the political solution;
- Importance of institutional configuration - in different political systems policy process could be slow even if it is the best political decision to solve problem (Zahariadis).

Politics stream

- The politics stream consists of 3 elements:

- national mood;

- pressure groups;

- bureaucratic turnover.

Opinion polls

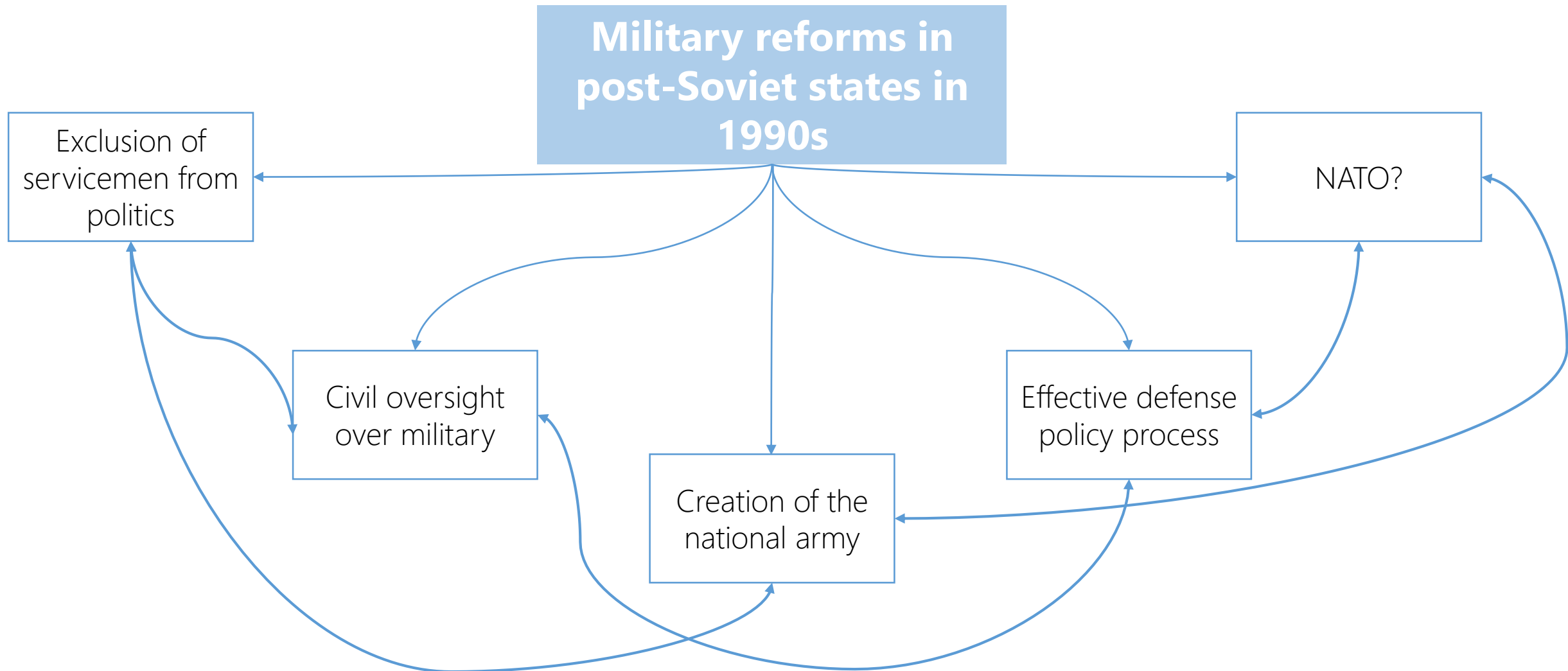
New members in
legislative and
executive branches

Public opinion and pressure groups influence governmental decision-making process that makes politicians balance more or less between different opinions. Bureaucratic turnover could lead to changes in political stream or if key-actors leave the office and new people come – a U-turn in policy is possible.

Political Entrepreneurs and Policy Windows

- Political entrepreneurs - selling right solutions of the right problems to the actors.
- Political entrepreneurs depend on "policy windows".
- Policy windows:
 - Obvious windows – the end of the electoral cycle;
 - Sudden windows.

Literature Review



Discussion

1. Is it relevant to use traditional text analysis method?
2. Combination of MSF and game theory: game theoretical approach on “policy windows”;