NATO Membership and the Democratization of Post-Communist Countries

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Introduction

• Interest in International Organizations influence on countries
• Stronger understanding of how NATO and other organizations can change or influence a country for better or for worse
Literature Review

• What do we know…
  – Started out as a response to potential Soviet aggression (Mastny)
  – What to do after the Cold War? (Barany, Mansfield, Asmus)
  – 3 Expansions (Reiter, Dodds)

• What we don’t know
  – Many reasons for becoming democratic- which ones were most influential as a group of countries?
  – NATO membership as a factor
  – Nearly doubled membership since 1999
Research Question

- Was NATO membership a factor in post-communist countries’ decision to democratize?
Theory

• NATO membership is a positive incentive for post-communist countries to democratize
  - Offers protection
  - Stable environment
  - Creates like-minded allies
Data and Methods

• Case studies
  – Compare 6 countries and their democracy levels
  – 3 countries are NATO members and 3 are not
    • Romania (2004)
    • Czech Republic (1999)
    • Estonia (2004)
    • Serbia
    • Belarus
    • Macedonia
  – Freedom House data
Hypotheses

• As NATO membership becomes an option, more post-communist countries will move to democratize.

• Null Hypothesis- no relationship
Results

NATO Avg: 1.3
Non Member Avg: 3.8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Freedom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Romania
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Serbia
- Belarus
- Macedonia
Results

![Bar chart showing press freedom for different countries with NATO Avg: 26, Non Member Avg: 62]

- Romania: 41
- Czech Republic: 20
- Estonia: 16
- Serbia: 37
- Belarus: 93
- Macedonia: 57

Countries: Romania, Czech Republic, Estonia, Serbia, Belarus, Macedonia

Legend:
- Romania
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Serbia
- Belarus
- Macedonia

NATO Avg: 26
Non Member Avg: 62
Results

![Bar chart showing the level of democracy in various countries. The chart compares Romania, Czech Republic, Estonia, Serbia, Belarus, and Macedonia. Romania has a freedom level of 3.46, Czech Republic has 2.25, Estonia has 1.96, Serbia has 3.64, Belarus has 6.71, and Macedonia has 4. The NATO average for non-member countries is 2.56 with an average of 4.78.](chart.png)
Estonia

- 1989 Singing Revolution through the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- August 1991 - Declared independence from the USSR
- June 1992 - adopted current constitution
- 2004 - Joined NATO and the EU
- 2011 - Joined the Euro Zone
Macedonia

- 1980- death of life long dictator Tito and Yugoslavia began to feel tensions among 6 regions
- 3rd region to declare independence in September of 1991
- Greece resistance to acceptance
- Corruption, high unemployment and slow economic growth- biggest problems
Conclusions and Discussion

• For these six countries on average NATO members were more democratic than nonmembers

• Supports theory that NATO membership enticed countries to

• Still do no know how influential of a factor NATO membership was, just that it was probably a factor

• Another factor for future study would be the EU’s influence