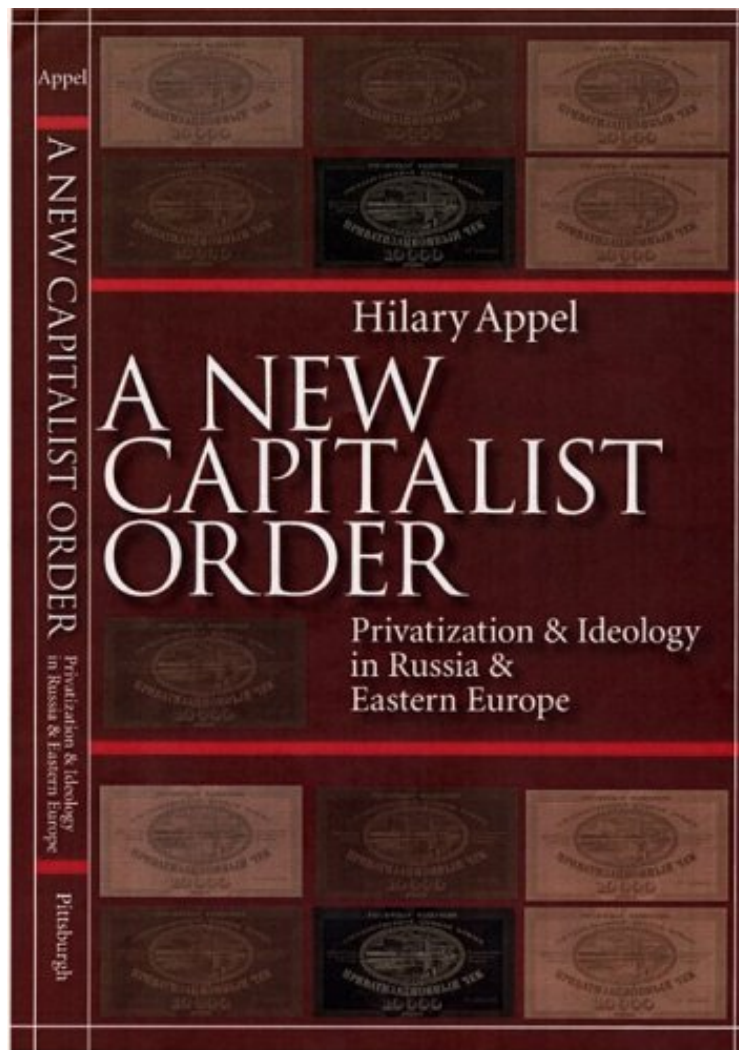


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## New Capitalist Order: Privatization And Ideology In Russia And Eastern Europe (Pitt Russian East European)

Hilary Appel

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**Hilary Appel : New Capitalist Order: Privatization And Ideology In Russia And Eastern Europe (Pitt Russian East European)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Capitalist Order: Privatization And Ideology In Russia And Eastern Europe (Pitt Russian East European):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An analysis of the shift from socialist ideology to privatized / capitalist ideology in Russia Eastern Europe By Mad MaxFirst, I should point out this book is original research analysis for those who study economics political science. It is not intended for "popular" consumption. That being said, it is accessible to anyone interested in these issues. Hilary Appel's goal is to answer the question, How did

ideology play a role in accomplishing economic privatization in Eastern Europe? Her argument is that privatization (away from communist or socialist ideals) was accomplished easily and efficiently after those cultures promoted and carried out an ideological campaign for privatization. Or, more precisely, the move towards capitalism privatization was funded by private and corporate interests, first by effectively campaigning and convincing the public it was needed, and then by aggressively moving in. There are a tremendous range of issues covered here. Again, this is not light reading, but is particularly interesting (from a US perspective) to see these parallels surface during our current economic climate.

After the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, more than a dozen countries undertook aggressive privatization programs. Proponents of economic reform championed such large-scale efforts as the fastest, most reliable way to make the transition from a state-run to a capitalist economy. The idea was widely embraced, and in the span of a few years, policymakers across the region repeatedly chose an approach that distributed vast amounts of state property to the private sector essentially for free—despite the absence of any historical precedent for such a radical concept. But privatization was not a panacea. It has, instead, become increasingly synonymous with collusion, corruption, and material deprivation. Why was privatization so popular in the first place, and what went wrong? In answering this question, Hillary Appel breaks with mainstream empirical studies of postcommunist privatization. By analyzing the design and development of programs in Russia, the Czech Republic, and across eastern Europe, Appel demonstrates how the transformation of property rights in these countries was first and foremost an ideologically driven process. Looking beyond simple economic calculations or pressure from the international community, she argues that privatization was part and parcel of the foundation of the postcommunist state. *A New Capitalist Order* reveals that privatization was designed and implemented by pro-market reformers not only to distribute gains and losses to powerful supporters, but also to advance a decidedly Western, liberal vision of the new postcommunist state. Moreover, specific ideologies—such as anticommunism, liberalism, or nationalism, to name but a few—profoundly influenced the legitimacy, the power, and even the material preferences of key economic actors and groups within the privatization process.

"A valuable analysis. Surprising and innovating. Appel's study of the role of ideology in mass privatization provides a crucial launching point for future debate."—*Comparative Politics*