Economic Transition In Central And Eastern Europe
Placing The Seeds By Alfred Steinherr

Offers a progress report on the state of the post-Communist revolution, ten years on, in Central Europe, concluding that the transition to democracy and markets for these countries has been bumpier and longer than might have been expected 10 years ago. Early chapters concentrate on the overall transition process in the region, and later chapters deal with specific cases. Subjects include economics of mass media, the information society model, the Czech experience in educational change, and women's employment in Poland. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

This book examines the evolution of trade and trade patterns in Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC) and assesses the implications of these patterns on structural change and economic development within transition economies. Taking the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 as a starting point, the authors discuss the transition of former communist CEE countries from centrally planned to market-driven economies, arguing that trade was the primary engine for the economic growth and transition process they experienced. The chapters in this book incorporate the results of previous studies - some of which are based on original research conducted by the authors - dedicated to the integration process of international and European trade. More importantly, the authors look at the broader aspects of structural change and economic development, indeed the whole process of economic transformation. Thus, the book moves well beyond the core ‘trade and growth’ framework to look at technological progress, foreign investment, institutional development and structural change in Central and Eastern European countries.

Now that the euphoria over political change has died down, the formerly socialist countries of Eastern and Central Europe are facing an economic crisis. The contributors to this well-established annual publication consider the key factors affecting the economic transition process, analyzing possible strategies for successful reform including the use of "shock theory" to accelerate the process. As well as examining various country-specific problems, the authors explore the status of the Central European countries seeking integration with the European Economic Community, and ask whether all the former socialist countries might do well to adopt some of the economic development strategies used so successfully by the nations of Southeast Asia.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Central European economies have been moving
rapidly toward a common set of goals: political democracy, market-oriented economies and integration into the European and international business community. For businesses, Central Europe offers a unique window of opportunity and, in particular, two comparative advantages: a low-cost qualified workforce and stronger growth rates than mature Western European economies. This opportunity, seized by local entrepreneurs and foreign enterprises alike, is a significant competitive threat to companies not present in the region, or who have not found alternative strategies for increased growth and competitiveness. This book addresses economic transitions in Central Europe and analyzes the problems of Central European integration in the European Union.

World Bank Technical Paper No. 336. Presents the results of consultative surveys undertaken in 36 rural and urban communities across Nigeria. The study examines the effectiveness and accountability of local institutions in local decisionmaking and participation, as well as some common limitations such as the narrowness of membership and goals and their limited technical and managerial capacities.

This book takes a macroeconomic approach to the issue of transformation from communist economies into market economies. At the centre of the analysis stands the role of the state and the definition within a dramatically changing environment. Particular emphasis is given to the emerging role of money and the financial sector.

Provides a comprehensive view of the economic heritage of the reforming countries, of the reforms that are necessary, both from a theoretical and a practical viewpoint; and of the responsibilities of the West.

This book is a collection of studies that examine the path of transition of central and south eastern European countries, the implications of EU enlargement for the acceding countries and the remaining European countries yet to join. It also discusses reactions of eastern European stock markets to news of financial crisis in emerging markets.

This book, a second edition, has been significantly expanded and updated. It revisits the process of institutional change: its characteristics, determinants and implications for economic performance.

An attentive reader embarking on this book might wonder what "the" economic transition to which the title refers might be. In this century almost all countries have gone through periods of economic transition; but which period of economic history can claim to embody the notion or to represent the era of "the" transition? Definitely, no country or group of countries has experienced anything comparable to the economic upheavals that the fall of communism has brought about in a large portion of the world in just three years (1989 to 1991). No other "transition" to date has prompted more interest and more studies among economists, academics and policy-makers than has the transformation of centrally planned economies into market-based systems. It is this transformation that has come to define "the" transition. Early in the transformation process (in November 1990), with the support of the Centre for Co-operation with the Economies in Transition (CCET), I launched a conference to examine the challenges faced by these countries. About six years have gone by and a new economic landscape has emerged in that part of the world. The difficulties in transforming these economies have exceeded all expectations, and economic performances have varied considerably across countries. The time has come, therefore, to make a first evaluation of progress and problems, with a view to extracting useful policy lessons to guide policy-makers in successfully completing the transition in the near future.

Empirical analysis shows that democracy has facilitated economic liberalization in 25 postcommunist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The existence of a vibrant civil society at the start of the transition has the most explanatory power in this team's regression.

Annotation World Bank Technical Paper No. 341. This cross-national study provides empirical evidence of some of the trends in health status, health services, and health care financing that have occurred in countries undergoing economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe.
Evidence shows that the transition has led to a significant reduction in resources devoted to health care in many of these countries. Moreover, in those that have increased health care spending, the resources have either not been properly mobilized or have not led to improved quality in care. Also available: "Trends in Health Status, Services, and Finance: The Transition in Central and Eastern Europe". Volume II. World Bank Technical Paper No. 348. January 1997. 152 pages. Stock no. 13828 (ISBN 0-8213-3828-5).

Analysing the key problems facing the transition countries in Central and Eastern Europe, this accessible book describes the legacy of the central planners, the progress achieved so far and the need for further reforms. It documents the outstanding successes and failures, and analyses why certain approaches to transition have worked and others have not. It tests where transition is over and shows how some countries have graduated from 'transition' to 'integration' through their efforts to join the European Union (EU). It discusses the costs and benefits of the eastern enlargement of the EU. The specific experiences of German unification, the Soviet Union's disintegration, and Russia's complex reforms are examined, as are the specific issues that need to be addressed in the Balkans. The book concludes by indicating how the expanding EU could help the poor performers through inclusion in a continent-wide integrated economic area.

In October 1999, economists, World Bank and IMF officials, international bankers, and other architects of post-Communist economic policies gathered in Warsaw to congratulate themselves on the success of the economic plans they engineered a decade before. Consisting of papers and discussions from that conference, this book integrates theoretical and empirical analyses of the economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe. It considers factors like economic growth, stabilization, and the reformation of social safety nets. c. Book News Inc.

The social, political and economic transformations experienced by the formerly socialist countries of central and eastern Europe since the beginning of the 1990s have resulted in abrupt shifts in demographic trends, whose consequences on nuptiality, fertility, mortality and migration will be significant and irreversible. The present study analyses and offers explanations about this process and compares these developments with the demographic changes that occurred earlier in western Europe. A thorough knowledge of these demographic trends offers an essential tool for social policy makers and researchers and the comparative approach of the study furthers our understanding of the underlying processes taking place in all European countries.

Explores the complex and intertwined problems of geopolitics and economic transition of the five new countries that inherited from the Soviet Union the strategic positions and rich natural resources of Central Asia. Economists and political scientists from the region offer their sometimes opposing views of the situation, what led to it, and how to deal with it, some focusing on a particular country and some considering the region as a whole. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

The book deals with the key aspects of social and economic inequalities developed during the transition of the formerly planned European economies. Particular emphasis is given to the latest years available in order to consider the effects of the global crisis started in 2008-2009.

The Czech Republic and Economic Transition in Eastern Europe is the first in-depth, comparative analysis of the Czech Republic's economic transition after the fall of the Communist bloc. Edited by Jan Svejnar, a principal architect of the Czech economic transformation and Economic Advisor to President Vaclav Havel, the book poses important questions about the Republic and its partners in Central and Eastern Europe. The thirty-five essayists describe the country's macroeconomic performance; its development of capital markets; the structure and performance of its industries; its unemployment, household behavior, and income distribution; and the environmental and health issues it faces. In this in-depth, comparative analysis of the Czech Republic's economic transition, an international team of thirty-five economists examine the Republic and its partners in Central and Eastern Europe. Important questions and issues permeate the essays. For example, prior to 1993 the Czech Republic possessed the most advanced economy in the region; is it capable of reestablishing its dominance? Relative to its neighbors, the Republic ranks especially high on some transition-related performance indicators but low on others. What economic effects are related to the 1993 dissolution of the Czech and Slovak governments? And what can be
learned by comparing the economic outcomes of two countries that shared legal and institutional frameworks? Data describe the country's macroeconomic performance; its development of capital markets; the structure and performance of its industries; its unemployment, household behavior, and income distribution; and the environmental and health issues facing it. Its most important contributions are its clarifications of the transition process. The authors included in Transforming Czechoslovakia combine the best available data and techniques of economic analysis to assess the replacement of the inefficient but internally consistent central planning system with a more efficient market system. These authors, among whom are central European economic analysts, senior U.S. economists, and Czechoslovakian professors and economic researchers, discuss the country's macroeconomic performance; its development of capital markets; the structure and performance of its industries; its unemployment, household behavior, and income distribution; and the environmental and health issues facing it. The essays vary between presentations of history and policy and technical examinations of data. Together they offer the most comprehensive and detailed assessment of the country's economic transformation in print. This book is important because its essayists compile results and reach conclusions that are broad and credible. The empirical data were gathered on the ground and have been subjected to advanced methodologies, including game theory, industrial organization, and Granger-Sims causality.

This book, a third edition, has been significantly expanded and updated. It revisits the process of institutional change: its characteristics, determinants and implications for economic performance. New chapters address the significance of Post-Communist transition, the differences and importance of initial conditions in institutional building, and, social norms, values, and happiness. Other chapters have been expanded to include, for example, a focus on the Washington consensus, commentary on the 2008 financial crisis, state capacity and corruption, and new findings on redistribution and inequality. With specific focus on Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, this revised edition examines the process of development, and its interdependence with institutions.

In the last three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall, there has been a vast amount of study looking at transforming the planned economy to a market economy from both theoretical and empirical aspects. This book provides an overview and insight into transition economies in the recent decades and looks at key economics topics from the so-called “transition strategy debate” to environmental reform. The book also includes an analytical review and meta-analysis of the existing literature. By integrating theoretical discussions and synthesizing empirical findings in a systematic manner, this book may help to enlighten the debate on the timing, speed, and policy sequence of economic transition. The book will particularly appeal to researchers, policy makers, other practitioners, and under- and post-graduate students who are interested in transition economies in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia, and China. It aims to be read as an advanced reader.

Central and Eastern European countries and the states of the former USSR have embarked on an exhilarating but difficult political and economic transition. Changes in agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe and the former USSR will profoundly affect the individual countries and the region, and alter the world agricultural economy in the twenty-first century. Despite many differences, these countries face a core of common issues as they design and implement agrarian reform. Most of the papers prepared for the 1990 World Bank - National Bank of Hungary conference on the agricultural transition in Central and Eastern Europe and the USSR are presented herein. They provide a rich set of references for understanding the problems of agricultural transition in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and for evaluating alternative paths open to the governments in the region. The unifying theme of this book is the common dilemmas and options of agricultural transformation in countries that differ in size, resource endowment, level of development, extent of market imperfections, and political conditions.

Problems of Economic Transition consists of papers presented at a colloquium held in April 1991 by experts in various aspects of regional development from 10 countries of Europe (Eastern and Western), USA and Canada. These papers present an overview of problems at national, regional and local levels and possible solutions.

Fifteen years ago, twenty-seven countries in Europe and Central Asia embarked on their economic transition paths. For some, the outcome was a considerable success. Several others are still struggling to shed the inheritance of the past and to correct more recent policy mistakes. Why were post-Communist recessions so long in some countries and growth disappointing? Why was fiscal performance so different? Was democracy a factor, which
facilitated reforms or rather slowed them down? This book discusses these questions in the context of new empirical evidence, including a critical examination of the main themes in the economics of transition literature.

This paper describes some common fallacies presented in analysing and assessing the experiences and issues involved in the transition from a non-market to a market economy in central and eastern Europe. These include: General conceptual or logical mistakes; Fallacies specific to the debate on economic transformation; The misuse of empirical models in general discussion of economic transition; Fallacies in the debate on inflation and stabilisation; Uncritical use of statistical data; Misunderstandings related to social and political aspects of economic transition.

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