

Направление: «Политология»

Профиль: «Прикладная политология»

КОД - 230

Время выполнения задания – 180 минут, язык – русский/английский.

Максимальное количество баллов - 100.

1. Напишите академическое эссе на одну из предложенных тем:

- В последние годы в России предпринимаются меры по усилению государственного контроля над Интернетом. Оцените угрозы и возможности, краткосрочные и долгосрочные последствия реализации такой стратегии.
- Протестная активность в российских регионах: причины, акторы, последствия.
- Экспериментальные методы в современной политической науке: возможности и ограничения.
- Электронное голосование как теоретическая проблема политической науки

2. Прочитайте фрагмент текста на английском языке и ответьте на вопросы по тексту (отвечайте также на английском языке)

In this article, we document the changing characteristics of authoritarian states worldwide. Using newly collected data, we show that recent autocrats employ violent repression and impose official ideologies far less often than their predecessors. They also appear more prone to conceal rather than to publicize cases of state brutality. Analyzing texts of leaders' speeches, we show that "informational autocrats" favor a rhetoric of economic performance and provision of public services that resembles that of democratic leaders far more than it does the discourse of threats and fear embraced by old-style dictators. Authoritarian leaders are increasingly mimicking democracy by holding elections and, where necessary, falsifying the results.

A key element in our theory of informational autocracy is the gap in political knowledge between the "informed elite" and the general public. While the elite accurately observes the limitations of an incompetent incumbent, the public is susceptible to the ruler's propaganda. Using individual-level data from the Gallup World Poll, we show that such a gap does indeed exist in many authoritarian states today. Unlike in democracies, where the highly educated are more likely than others to approve of their government, in authoritarian states the highly educated tend to be more critical. The highly educated are also more aware of media censorship than their less-schooled compatriots.

The manipulation of information is not new in itself—some totalitarian leaders of the past were innovators in the use of propaganda. What is different is how rulers today employ such tools. Where Hitler and Stalin sought to reshape citizens' goals and values by imposing comprehensive ideologies, informational autocrats intervene surgically, attempting only to convince citizens of their competence. Of course, democratic politicians would also like citizens to think them competent, and their public relations efforts are sometimes hard to distinguish from propaganda. Indeed, the boundary between low-quality democracy and informational autocracy is fuzzy, with some regimes and leaders—Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, say, or Cristina Kirchner of Argentina—combining characteristics of both. Where most previous models have assumed that formal political institutions constrain such leaders, we place the emphasis on a knowledgeable elite with access to independent media.

At the same time, today's softer dictatorships do not forswear repression completely. Informational autocrats may use considerable violence in fighting ethnic insurgencies and civil wars—as, in fact, do some democracies. They may also punish journalists as a mode of

censorship (although they seek to camouflage the purpose or to conceal the state's role in violent acts). Such states can revert to overt dictatorship, as may have happened after the 2016 coup attempt in Turkey, where the regime of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan detained tens of thousands (Amnesty International 2017). Still, as we show, the extent of mass repression in the regimes we classify as informational autocracies is dwarfed by the bloody exploits of past dictators.

The reasons for this shift in the strategies of authoritarian leaders are complex. We emphasize the role of economic modernization, and in particular the spread of higher education, which makes it harder to control the public by means of crude repression. Education levels have soared in many non-democracies, and the increase correlates with the fall in violence. But other factors likely contribute. International linkages, the global human rights movement, and new information technologies have raised the cost of visible repression. Such technologies also make it easier for regime opponents to coordinate, although they simultaneously offer new opportunities for surveillance and propaganda. The decline in the appeal of authoritarian ideologies since the end of the Cold War may also have weakened old models of autocracy.

- 1. Назовите ключевые отличия информационных автократий от традиционных автократий**
- 2. Что общего у информационных автократий и демократий?**
- 3. Какие источники эмпирических данных используют авторы? Для решения каких задач?**
- 4. С какой социальной характеристикой связано как отличие информационных автократий от демократий, так и само появление информационных автократий?**

