

Understanding State Crisis in Kyrgyzstan through Centre-Periphery Dynamics

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If public mobilizations in Kyrgyzstan, that have led to regime changes in 2005 and 2010, are believed to be primarily political in nature and thus symbolic only of political regime crisis (technical vesture of power), my contention is that they witness rather of the larger processes of state crisis and are mainly social in nature. In Kyrgyzstan, this crisis is not only articulated through the defection of public institutions as the military and the milice or fragmentation of elites on horizontal and vertical levels (traditional approach in political science). It is most importantly articulated through the state failure to conduct public policies in the regions and thus acquires the form of centre-region conflicting relationship. This paper discusses the center-region relationship in the Kyrgyz Republic and analyzes forms and dynamics of interdependency. It starts with the hypothesis that actors on both sides continuously struggle to produce a clear picture of the motives and actions of the other side. It continues with the discussion of the change of nature of public mobilization throughout 2005-2010 on the examples of Talas and Osh regions. It outlines finally that current mobilizations are framed by the increasing demand of the regions for modern politics and the incapacity of central authorities to provide with adequate responses but employ traditional co-optation of local notables. These exchanges generate conflicts that unfold and regularly produce waves of political instability in the Kyrgyz Republic.