

## PREFACE

This volume outlines the proceedings of the international workshop, “Post-Communist Transformations: The Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Russia in Comparative Perspective,” which was held at the Slavic Research Center on December 5, 2008. This workshop was part of a four-year project led by Tadayuki Hayashi, “Comprehensive Comparative Analysis of the System Transformation in the CIS and East-European Countries,” which is sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science as Grants-in-Aid (A). This workshop was also financed by a five-year grant-in-aid for scientific research on innovative areas of the Ministry of Education and Science, “Comparative Research on Major Regional Powers in Eurasia” led by Shinichiro Tabata.

In Part 1 of this volume, the authors analyze various aspects of political, economic and social transformations in Central and Eastern Europe and Russia. Chapters by Atsushi Ogushi and Richard Sakwa discuss Russian politics. Ogushi discusses the development of the executive diarchy in Russia (presidency and government) from the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers in the USSR. In this context, he argues that the role of the presidential administration is to contain departmental and centrifugal bureaucracy. Sakwa investigates the huge discrepancies between the “regime” based upon administrative power and institutionalized constitutional politics as a fundamental problem of contemporary Russian politics. Such gulfs are exemplified by the weak representational role of political parties and so forth.

The issues of Part 2, whose chapters are treated by Peter Rutland and Akira Uegaki treat, are the economic transformations of Communist and Post-Communist countries. Rutland compares Russian and Chinese development models, both of which started from different points, developed through different paths, but are now converging into a similar model, a sort of “regulated market.” Uegaki, having devised his own analytical model, investigates the “backward” economic structures of Romania and Bulgaria comparing them with other East European countries.

In Part 3, the social welfare system of Central and Eastern Europe is discussed in chapters by Martin Potůček and Manabu Sengoku. With

a close examination of empirical data, the large institutional diversity of the social welfare system in Central and Eastern Europe, and the development of the Czech welfare system are demonstrated by Potůček. Sengoku, based on qualitative and quantitative data, explains such institutional diversity by highlighting the influences of political and social actors, mainly political parties, and trade unions.

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Editors  
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