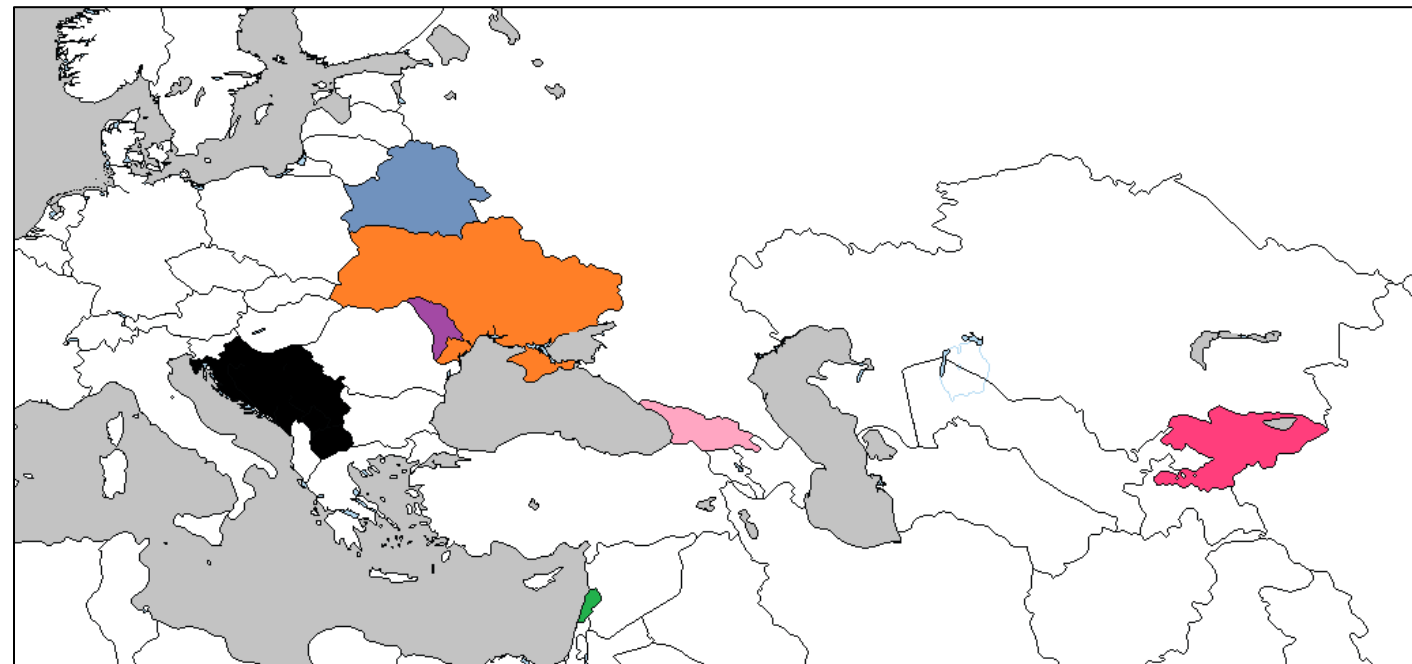


SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN THE COLOR REVOLUTIONS

The Role of American Democracy Assistance

The Color Revolutions



A series of mass protests after fraudulent elections in the former Soviet sphere during the 2000's

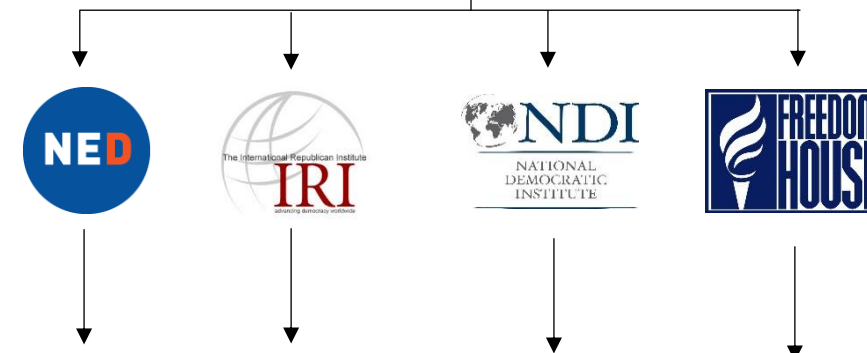
2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2009
Bulldozer Revolution Yugoslavia	Rose Revolution Georgia	Orange Revolution Ukraine	Tulip Revolution Kyrgyzstan	Denim Revolution Belarus	Grape Revolution Moldova
			Cedar Revolution Lebanon		

Methodology

- Small-n case study, Process tracing
- Data sources
- Contemporary news reports (The Current Digest of the post Soviet Press)
 - Contemporary interviews
 - US government reports
 - NGO reports on civil society

Democracy Assistance

Foreign aid from the United States given to NGO's and political parties aiming to promote stronger democratic institutions



Organizers, Political parties

Research Question

Why did the Orange Revolution in Ukraine succeed in overturning its targeted election results while the Denim Revolution in Belarus did not?

Hypothesis

The Orange Revolution succeeded overturning its election, while the Denim Revolution did not, because of Orange Revolution activists' greater organizational capacity. Activist capacity was greater in Ukraine due to greater application of democracy assistance programs by the United States.

Findings

UKRAINE

- US democracy assistance was crucial for opposition efforts to document election fraud
- Democracy assistance aided party organizing capacity, but the extent of the impact is unclear
- Democracy assistance was given toward vital media coverage, but this media would have existed without democracy assistance

BELARUS

- The government was able to eliminate vital civil society and political groups due to their lack of specific resources
- Democracy assistance targeted these groups, but did not give them the specific resources they needed

Democracy assistance was a salient cause of the Orange Revolution's success, but it was not the only one. Democracy assistance did not produce a successful Denim Revolution because it failed to deliver necessary resources to local actors.