

Sourcing Sultanism: An Analysis of the Foundations of Sultanism in post-Soviet States

Research Question

What conditions must be present within post-Soviet states to allow a sultanistic executive to develop?

Methodology and Variables

Neopositivist Small-n Case Study

(Most Similar Case Comparison)

DV: Sultanism

-Present, Present with Limits, Not Present

IV: Executive Military/Intelligence Experience

-No Experience, Informal Experience, Formal Experience

IV: Support of Societal Elites for the Executive

-Supportive, Neutral, Antagonistic

IV: Perception of economic conditions as time

passes under the President's leadership

-Better, the Same, Worse

Cases

- Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili (2004-2013)
- Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga (1999-2007)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin (2000-2008)
- Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov (1990-2006)

Tested Hypotheses

• Perceived Economic Improvement + Elite Support - Mil/Intel Experience \neq Sultanism

Rejected

• Mil/Intel Experience \neq Sultanism
• Mil/Intel Experience + Elite Support = Sultanism

Accepted

• Lack of Economic Improvement \neq Sultanism
• Lack of Economic Improvement + Mil/Intel Experience + Elite Support = Sultanism

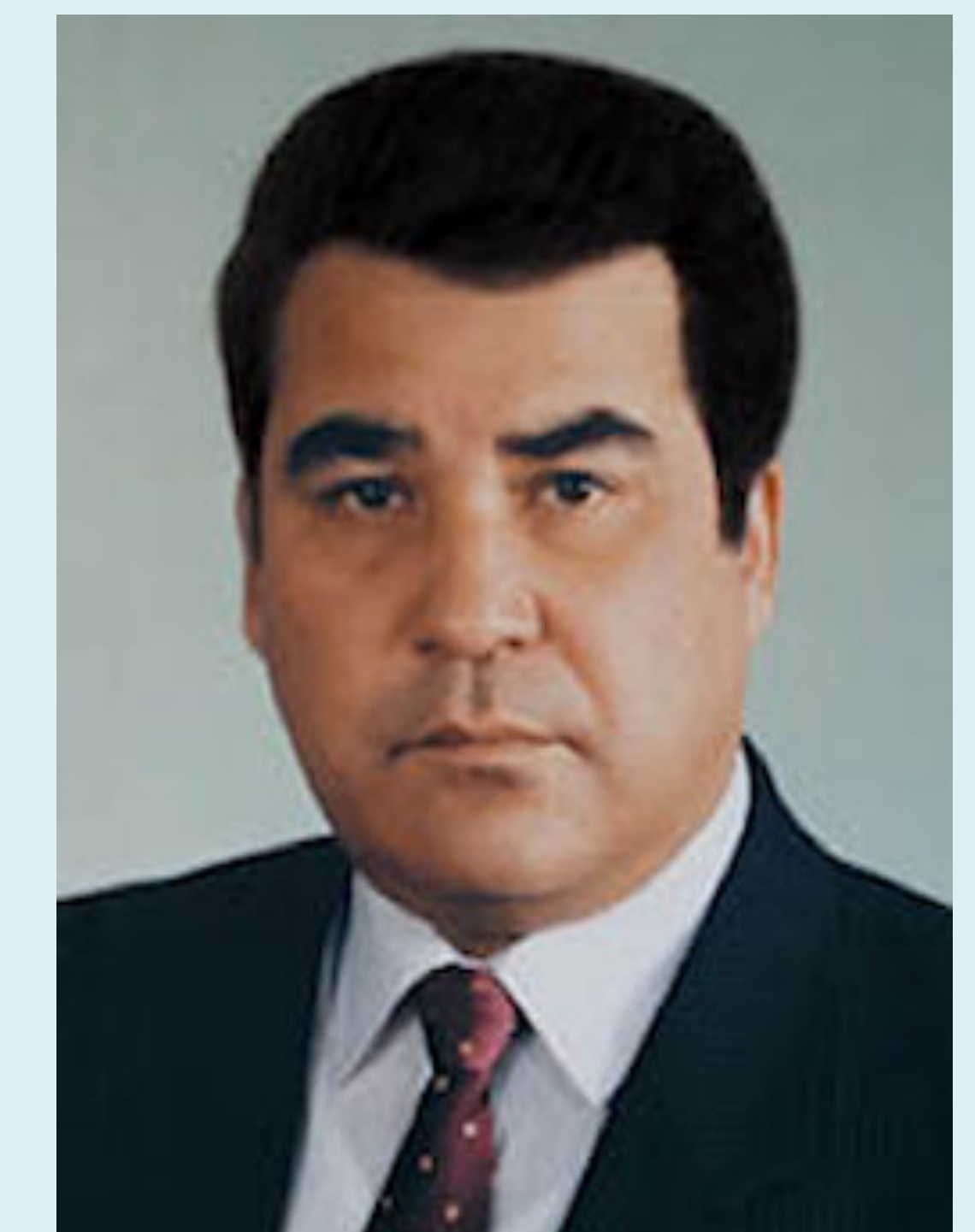
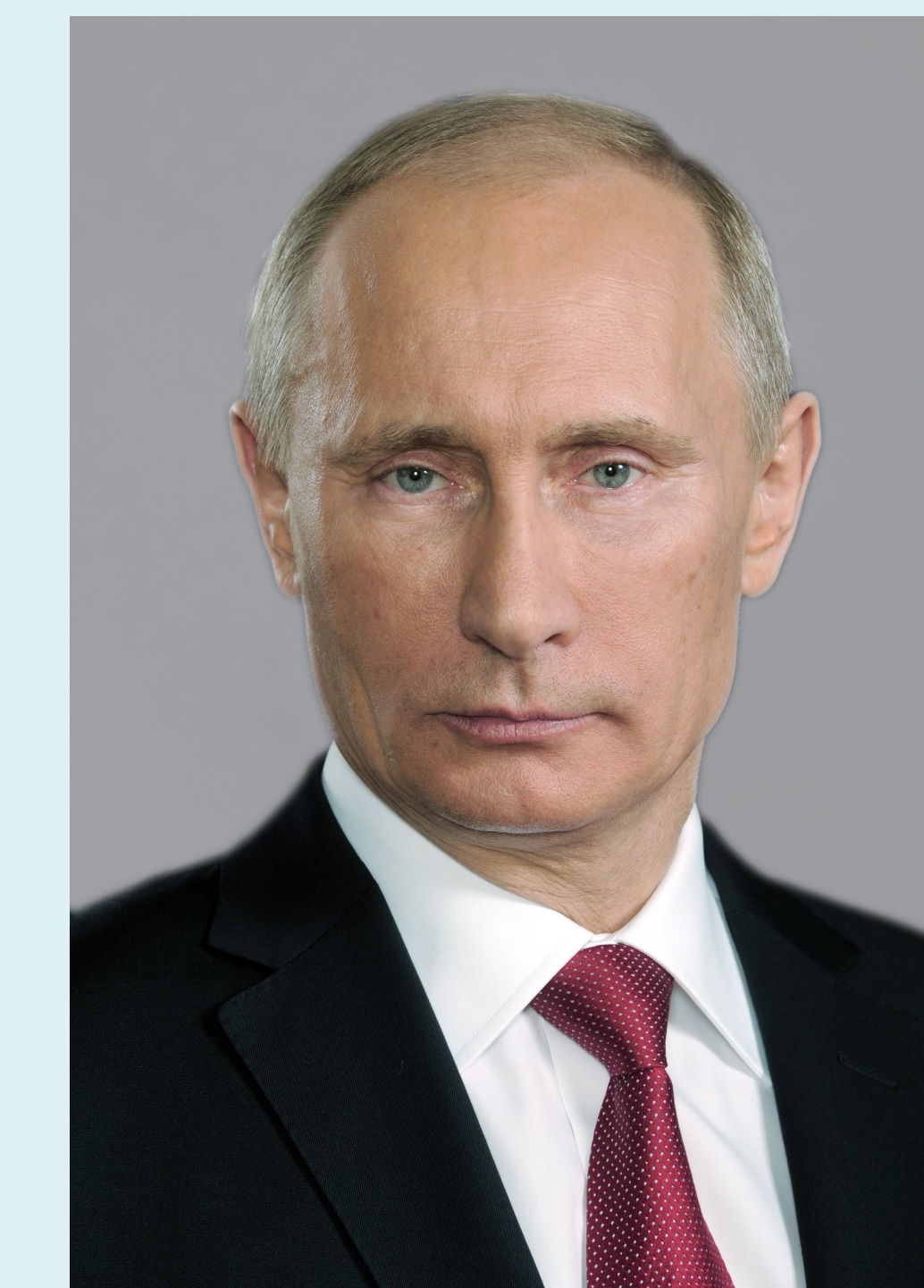
Data Insufficient

Findings on Sultanism

-Necessary Condition: Moderate levels (or higher) of support for the executive from societal elites or the executive

-Sufficient Conditions: Elite support and improving economic conditions

-Executive military/intelligence experience is not a necessary condition



Analysis	Independent Variables			Dependent Variables
Cases	Mil/Intel	Elites	Perception	Sultanism
Mikheil Saakashvili	No Experience	Overall: Low Levels of Support Supportive (Early Years) Antagonistic (End of Second Term)	Moderately Better	<i>Not Present</i>
Vaira Vike-Freiberga	No Experience	Low-Moderate Support	Very Slightly Better	<i>Not Present</i>
Vladimir Putin	Formal Experience	Supportive	Moderately-Much Better	Present
Saparmurat Niyazov	No Experience	Moderately Supportive	Small-Moderately Better	Present

Research Implications

- Authoritarianism Studies
- State Building
- U.S.-Eurasia Foreign Policy

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