

CAUSES OF THINK TANK SECTOR SIZE: POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THE WORLD

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the causes of the different sizes of think tank spheres among countries, with a particular focus on the post-communist countries. The effects of a set of political and socio-economic factors on the size of think tank sector are analyzed. Factors standardly hypothesized in the literature as responsible for the size of country's think tank sector are tested on improved data, using both simple linear regression (OLS) and random effects panel regression (GLS). As the consensus on the definition of think tank affects also the existing data on think tanks, several different measures of country's think tank sector size based on different understandings of think tanks are used in order to arrive at more robust results. Positive effects of socio-economic development, civil liberties, and population size on country's think tank sector size are found. This provides a baseline for the evaluation of region or country-type specific explanations. Several such explanations specific to post-communist countries that posit a positive effect of decline in political rights and civil liberties on the size of country's think tank sector, are tested. Positive effects of socio-economic development are not found. On the contrary positive effect of decline political rights are found, in consistency with the specific explanation. In addition negative effect of civil liberties and of past number of political parties and are found, posing questions for further research.

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