

NGOs and Authoritarianism

Andrew Heiss, PhD

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University
andrewheiss.com • @andrewheiss

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The Puzzle

Why do dictators let NGOs work in their country?

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



一. 境外机构，物色人选

XX工人热线

幸会幸会，
自当竭力

某团NGO组织

很高兴认识你，我们
的劳工理念很值得推广

四. 基层松土，潜在危害

西方劳工理念
西方工会理念

xxI厂

xxI厂

xxI厂

xxI厂

xxI厂

xxI厂

xxI厂

五. 走上街头，非法活动



中华人民共和国境外非政府组织境内活动管理法（英译文本）

时间：2016年11月17日 字体：【大】【中】【小】

Order of the President of the People's Republic of China

No. 44

the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations, adopted at the 20th Meeting of the 12th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on November 17, 2016, and shall come into force on January 1, 2017.

Xi Jinping

President of the People's Republic of China

April 28, 2016

**Law of the People's Republic of China on Administration
of Activities of Overseas Nongovernmental Organizations
in the Mainland of China**

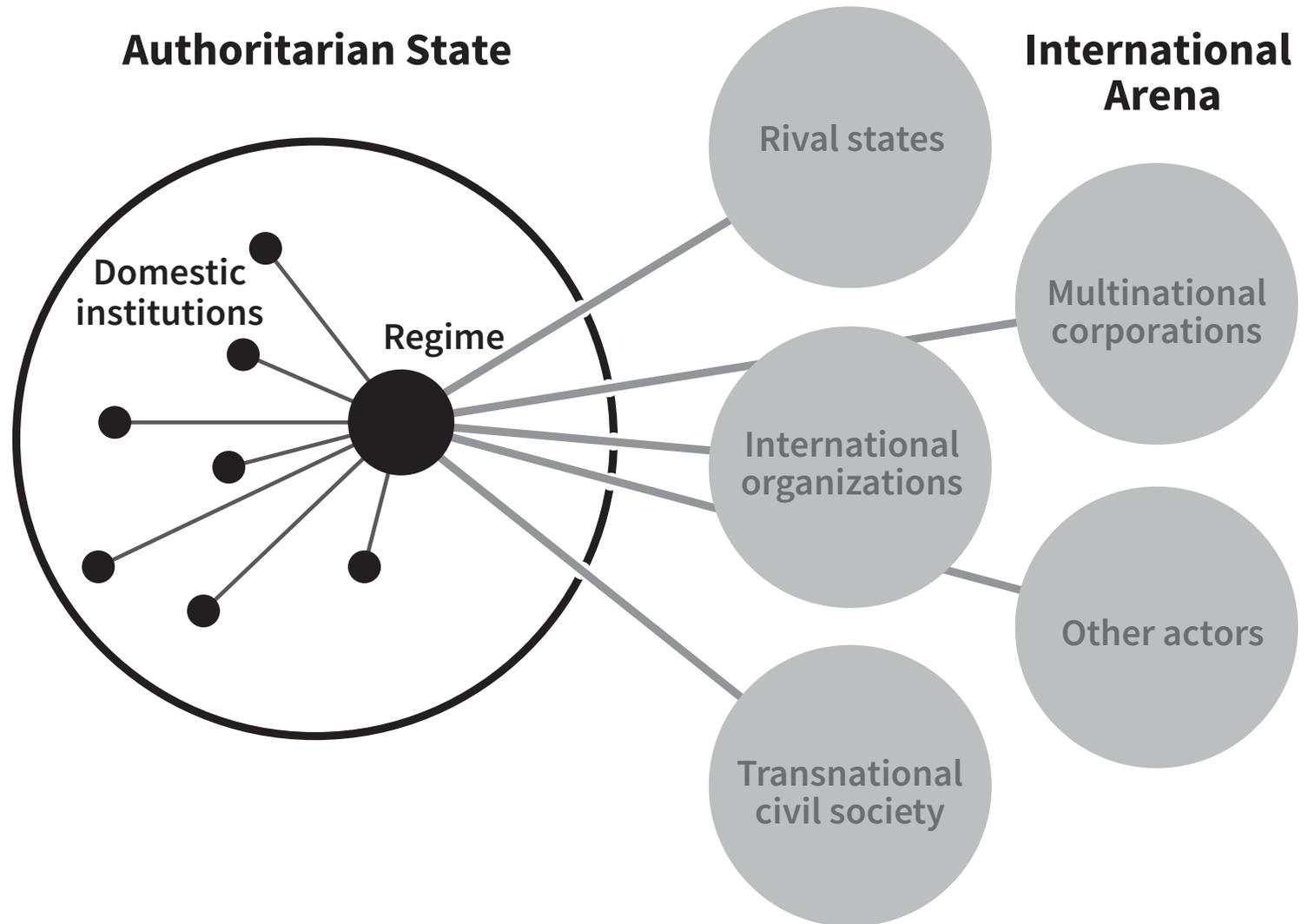


Authoritarian Institutions

Dictators aren't as stable as they appear

Institutional balancing

To stay in power, dictators must give some power to rival institutions, but in a controlled and safe way



“Donning democratic garb”

Dictators use democratic-ish institutions in the service of regime stability

Parliaments

Protests

Independent judiciary

Central banks

NGOs as Institutions

Collaborators, opponents, or substitutes?

My argument

NGOs are yet another institution that dictators have to deal with when pursuing regime stability

NGOs in dictatorships

Bowling leagues, networks,
and **supporting** state power

“Standing up to city hall”
and **challenging** state power

NGO fiefdoms
and **replacing** state power

NGO Restrictions

Fitting NGOs into authoritarian calculus

Civil liberties - international

Human rights groups face global crackdown 'not seen in a generation'

Laws affecting funding, requiring registration and prohibiting protest are among those that are making it difficult for NGOs and other campaign groups

Resisting the Global Crackdown on Civil Society

July 11, 2013

FREEDOM HOUSE

Aid how change happens human rights NGOs Politics

5 trends that explain why civil society space is under assault around the world

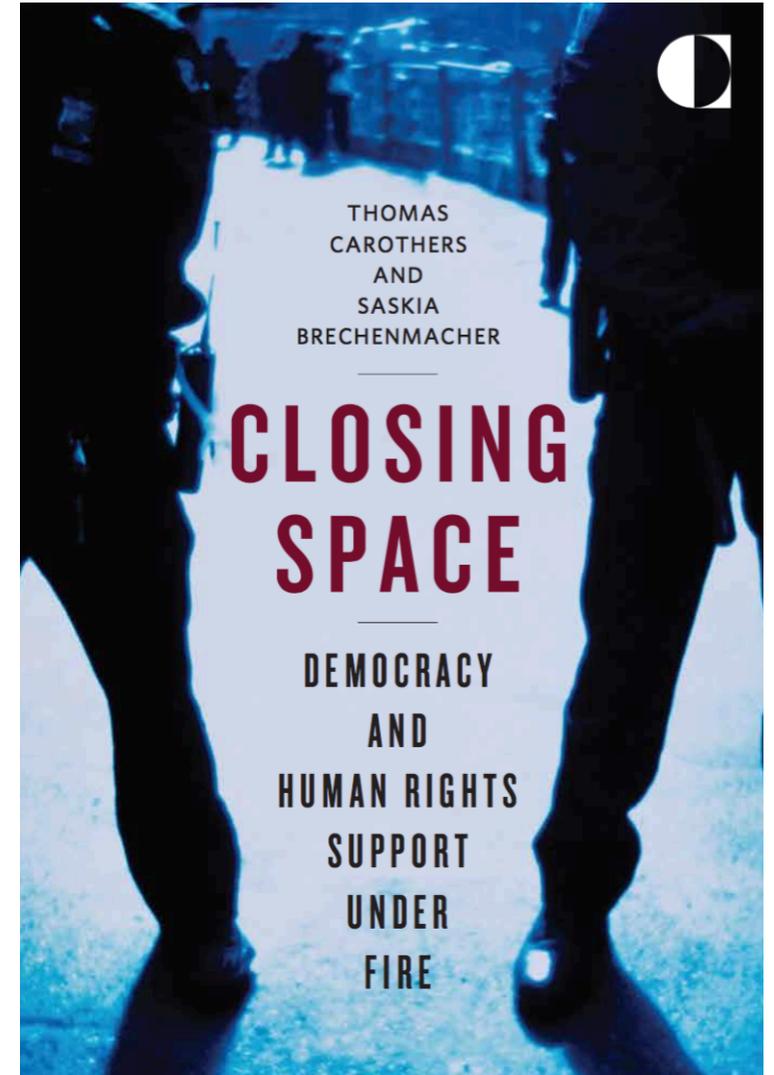
August 25, 2015

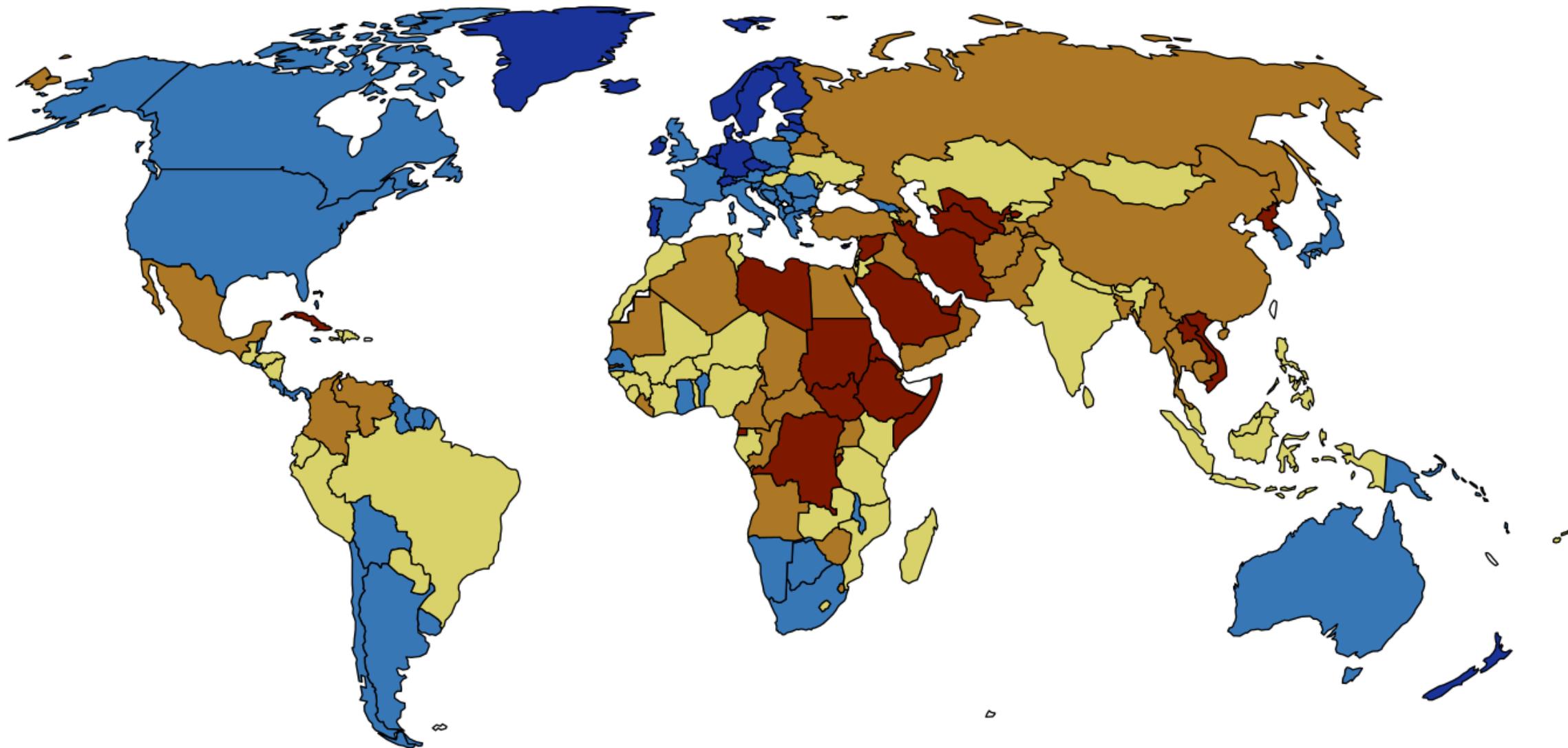
The Economist

World politics Business & finance Economics Science & technology Culture

NGOs in China

Pummelling the little platoons





Civic space  Open  Narrowed  Obstructed  Repressed  Closed

Costs and benefits of NGOs

**Coordinated
understanding**

**Provide services
for regime**

**Boomerangs
and spirals**

**Bestow legitimacy
to regime**

Legal restrictions

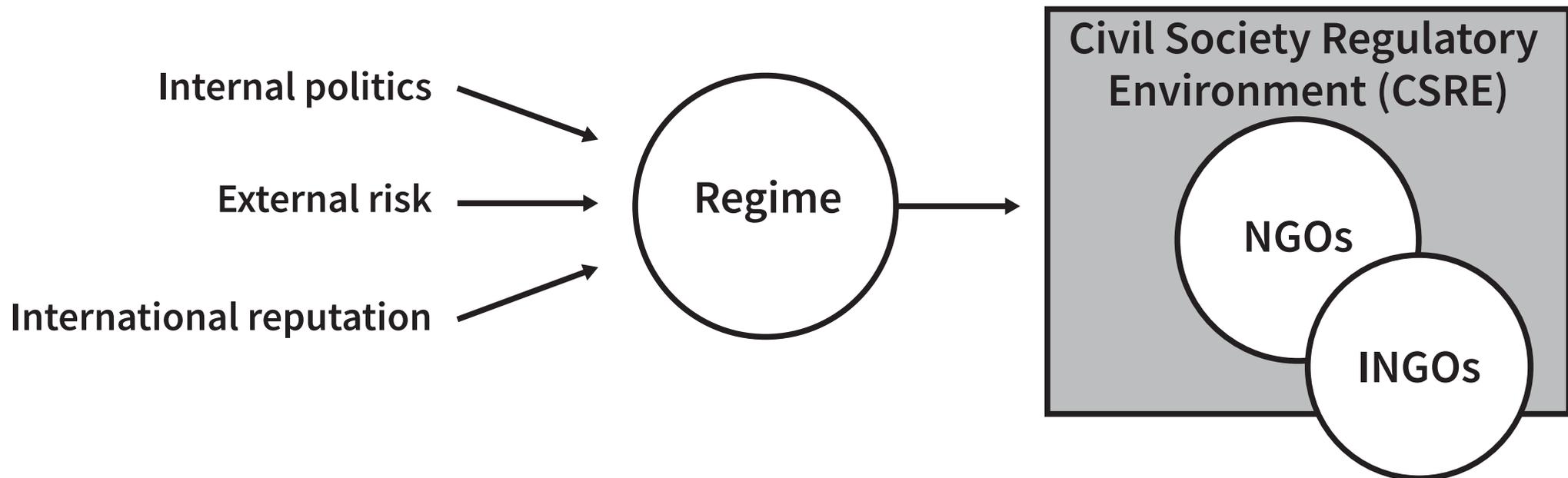
**Dictators use laws to avoid costs,
reap benefits of NGOs**

Gatekeeping

Programmatic

Varying enforcement

Passage and enforcement
depend on regime needs



Adjusting to the legal environment

Change staff

Change programs

Change laws

Leave and stop

Leave and sneak

	Conflict Countries and Failed States	Immediate Post-Conflict and Transitional Countries	Democratic Development Countries	Authoritarian Countries and Repressive Democracies
Media Freedom				
Safety and protection	●	●		●
Monitoring, research and advocacy	●	●	●	●
Media policy and professional environments		●	●	
Media (Infra)structure				
Alternative media (including community and exiled media)	●	●	●	●
Technical capacity and capacity building	●	●	●	
Digital Communications and Technologies	●	●	●	●
Media Content				
Specialised training		●	●	●
Media content monitoring		●	●	
Production of diverse and professional content	●	●	●	