

Why Authoritarian Regimes Last

Political Science

The mechanisms that sustain non-democratic rule.

Mechanisms of survival.

Mechanisms

Co-optation of potential rivals

Selective repression rather than blanket

Controlled elections that reveal support

Distribution of economic rents

Information control and uncertainty

Vulnerabilities

Succession without a clear rule

Economic shocks removing rents

Elite defection at a moment of doubt

Preference falsification collapsing suddenly

Educational reference. Preference falsification means public support can look solid until it collapses without warning.