

Twenty Years of de facto State Studies: Progress, Problems, and Prospects

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Abstract:

It has been almost 20 years since the publication of *International Society and the De Facto State* by Scott Pegg in 1998, the first book-length substantive theoretical attempt to investigate the phenomenon of de facto states—secessionist entities that control territory, provide governance, receive popular support, persist over time, and seek widespread recognition of their proclaimed sovereignty and yet fail to receive it. Even though most de facto states are relatively small and fragile actors, in the intervening years the study of de facto or contested or unrecognized statehood has expanded dramatically. The de facto state literature has contributed significantly to the growing recognition that the international system is far more variegated than is commonly perceived. An initial focus on the external relations of de facto states has increasingly given way to a newer focus on their internal dynamics and domestic state-building processes and on how a lack of sovereign recognition conditions but does not prohibit their democratic, institutional, and political development. Perhaps most notably, there has been an explosion in detailed empirical research based on original data, which has greatly enriched our understanding of these entities. Alas, the subfield of de facto state studies is also characterized by recurrent problems. There has been an extensive proliferation of different terms used to describe these entities, and much fighting has erupted over precise definitions, resulting in limited scholarly progress. Fundamentally, there remains a continued failure to reach agreement on the number of these entities that exist or have existed since 1945. The nuanced and empirically rich academic literature has also largely failed to advance journalists or policymakers' understanding of de facto states. Yet, the prospects for de facto state studies remain bright. More diverse comparative work, renewed attention to how engagement without recognition might facilitate the participation of unrecognized entities in international politics, a renewed focus on parent state strategies, and increased attention to de facto states and conflict resolution are areas deserving of greater scholarly attention.

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A lot of progress has been made thus far. First, a consensus has been reached at the governmental level with a large number of countries. President Xi and Prime Minister Li Keqiang introduced the idea, framework. It has been nearly three years since Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the autumn of 2013. A lot of progress has been made thus far. First, a consensus has been reached at the governmental level with a large number of countries. Despite these achievements and progress, we should not neglect the problems during the implementation of the BRI. For example, the implementation of some projects was too hasty, without sufficient consideration of their long-term economic benefits. Progress and Problems. Government Scientists Report on Scientific Integrity at Four Agencies. Published Sep 28, 2015. Downloads. Government science has a profound impact on our daily lives. The work done by scientists at federal agencies plays a pivotal role in shaping policies on public health, food and drug safety, our environment, national security, and many other issues that affect all of us. Because government science is so important, it's vital to maintain a high standard of scientific integrity in federal agencies. Two years after UCS evaluated the media and social media policies at 17 federal agencies, a new analysis finds progress—but much work remains to be done. Downloads. INTRODUCTION De facto states are secessionist entities that control territory, provide governance, secure popular support and persist over extended periods of time, but whose self-proclaimed sovereignty is largely or entirely not recognized by the international community of sovereign states (Pegg 1998). In studying de facto states, scholars can direct their attention toward dynamics that are internal to these entities or external to them. While there is widespread pessimism within the de facto state literature about the prospects for parent states willingly recognizing de facto states (Geldenhuis 2009; Kolstø 2006; Pegg 1998), parent states can accommodate secessionist demands if they choose to do so. The authors conceptualize the post-Soviet de facto states as rentier clients. In doing so, we identify and discuss the defining characteristics of two secessionist political economies—PMR's oligarchic model and DPR's provisional dirigiste system. Our study clarifies the mechanisms of economic endurance by showing how de facto states manage production, trade, tax and shape property rights regimes, while receiving the external rent from the Russian patron-state. Despite the growing interest in the study of de facto states, our understanding of the conditions under which these entities construct and change strategies to gain international recognition remains partial. The aim of this article is to more.