

## **ABSTRACT**

As a consequence of a series of unfortunate events that began with the *coup d'état* against Mikhail Gorbachev on August 1991, Tajikistan, the poorest of the Soviet republics, declared its independence from the Soviet Union on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1991. The Tajik Supreme Soviet was the first of the Central Asian authorities to promulgate independence from Moscow. Following the Tajik example, other Central Asian republics declared their independence before the end of that year.

Tajikistan has experienced two different types of political establishment throughout its existence. Neither was formed in a natural fashion as a result of historical political evolution. From the stateless communities to the construction of the Tajik state this country lacked certain evolutionary processes that in other cases have contributed to democratic political developments. After independence, conditioning aspects of the Soviet heritage, such as the clan structure, withhold the Tajik path toward a course of peaceful and democratic reform.

After the civil war and the national reconciliation process, the ruling coalition took several measures towards consolidating the government and healing the profound wounds left by the civil strife. Moreover, the gradual strengthening of the regime and its expansion to distant regions of the republic by means of arranging new and particularized deals with regional bosses was the key aim of Rakhmonov's administration. Crucial to the attainment of this goal was the implementation of the peace agreements. These served as a transitional program that was mainly based on the commitment to lock up the opposition within the government. However, the failure to establish and define the basic criteria of this commitment coupled with the enduring weaknesses of the Tajik state and economy resulted in the malfunction of the power-sharing reforms.

## **Keywords**

Tajikistan  
Central Asia  
Clan-based politics

Transition  
Democratic reform