

Abteilung für Mongolistik und Tibetstudien
& Abteilung für Südostasienwissenschaften
& Deutsch-Mongolische Gesellschaft e.V.

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*Issues of current leftist politics in Mongolia – with special regards to the
upcoming parliamentary elections*

At first glance, Mongolia's recent economic boom was in stark contrast with the country's thorny transition from socialism in the early 1990s. Mongolia has been often described as a success story of democratization – a bastion of democracy amidst authoritarian regimes. Right-wing think tanks continue to label its political and economic system as 'free'. However, these ratings and pronouncements hide fundamental issues of a country with weak institutions and economically dependent on the export of natural resources. Due to its low state capacity and economic underdevelopment, Mongolia is subject to the full force of globalization – both cultural and economic.

After 70 years of communist party rule Mongolia – along with many post-socialist countries – embarked on a journey to democratize its rigid, centralized political system. Democracy was mainly seen as a free access to western consumer goods and cultural artifacts with multiparty elections thrown in-between.

However, what was to follow was a completely opposite story – a tale of economic and social despair. Today, nearly 70 percent of the Mongolian population live in poverty. About 90 percent of its exports are constituted by natural resources. Its political system is plagued by corruption and incompetency. Public perception of authority is at an all time low. At this critical juncture the parliamentary elections of 2016 (June 29th) are likely to be most significant in modern Mongolian history.

Mittwoch, 17. Februar 2016
17:00 – 19:00 Uhr

Mongolei Zentrum Bonn
Kurfürstenstr. 54
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Um Anmeldung bis zum 14.2. bei cfriede@uni-bonn.de wird gebeten!