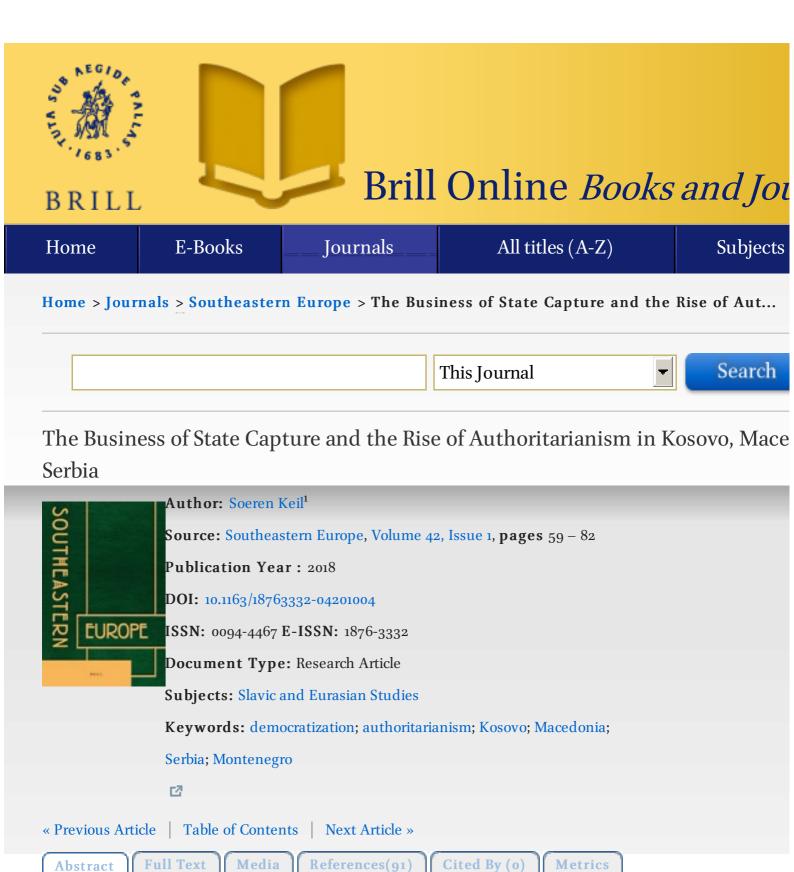
The business of state Capture and the rise of Authoritarianism in Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.



This paper will discuss the rise of authoritarian tendencies in the political systems of Kosovo, Macedonia, Montencountries, certain parties and political elites have become entrenched in the political system, and have been able to often beyond, and in some cases through, constitutional frameworks. It will discuss how forms of state capture has position themselves in a situation in which they not only control the political decision-making institutions, but also

the economic and social systems of these systems in transitional states. By extending their networks of patronage, opponents, and holding strong control over media and the judiciary, these elites have been able to develop semi-\$\varepsilon\$ utilise democratic elections to confirm their long-term dominance, veiling them in a veneer of legitimacy. This rise and in turn illiberal democracy – is not only linked to the political actions of certain parties and elites, but also rest economic changes that the countries under investigation have faced in recent years. What is more, the so-called to integration has failed to hinder or deter the rise of these new authoritarian regimes. The paper will progress in the theoretical framework will be introduced, by focusing on theories of democratization and authoritarian back-sliding countries under investigation will be discussed in more detail, to highlight why there has been an increase in auth four countries. This section will also discuss how these authoritarian tendencies play out in practice and how they consolidation of liberal democracy. Finally, in the conclusion it will be discussed what the European Union (EU) an support those forces that focus on democratic governance in these countries, and make the accession process truly

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