

## **Notes for Evangelista**

### **Evangelista: The Paradox of State Strength**

Evangelista discusses how a highly centralized authoritarian state can limit access to a broad range of societal groups but can also privilege certain groups whose policy preferences would otherwise not get a hearing if access were based solely on relative power or resources. On the other hand, a decentralized open and pluralistic polity permits a high degree of transnational activity but the policy preferences of transnational actors may not fare well in competition with those of other strong societal actors or institutions or groups endowed with more resources. He discusses the case of the USSR. The opening up of the Soviet system made it possible for transnational groups to flourish. However, it also meant that the particular transnational community of disarmament proponents that was so influential in the early Gorbachev years now had to compete with groups advocating very different policies—moreover, these new groups were much better endowed than their predecessors. A more open decentralized structure meant that competition was now such that resources and power figured prominently. His main conclusion is that domestic structure is an important intervening variable in the comparative analysis of foreign policy and is of direct theoretical importance to the study of transnationalism.