

# Industrial Development versus Agrarian Constituency: Economic Origins of Electoral Politics in the Russian Constitutional Democracy 1905–1917

Navid Hassanpour

`nhassanpour@hse.ru`

## Abstract

Why did the Russian experiment with electoral democracy fail in the early Twentieth century? I examine the results of the elections to the first Duma in 1906 on the province (*Guberniya*) level in conjunction with the socioeconomic data from the 1897 national census, in order to show that at the onset of the first Duma elections, economic class partitions, an emblem of the radical oppositional campaign, mapped only onto the Center Right party politics of the Octobrists, not the rest of the political spectrum. Furthermore, I intersect the electoral data from the elections to the Constituent Assembly, on the *uezd* level, with the data from the 1897 census to explore the socioeconomic determinants of turnout in 1917 elections, in relation to the political tendencies of the same electoral districts in the year 1906.

*Keywords:* Competitive Authoritarianism, Institutional Design, Political Economy of Turnout, Russian Politics