

Post-Soviet Affairs >

Volume 34, 2018 - [Issue 6](#)

305 | 2 | 1
Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

Articles

Millionaires and the public in Czech politics

Andrew Roberts 

Pages 353-366 | Received 29 Nov 2017, Accepted 19 Apr 2018, Published online: 02 Jul 2018

🗨️ Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/1060586X.2018.1484031>

 Check for updates

Sample our
Area Studies
Journals

>> **Sign in here** to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days



 Full Article  Figures & data  References  Citations  Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

[Read this article](#)

[Share](#)

ABSTRACT

This article relies on a unique survey of Czech millionaires and the general public to probe the nature and extent of the differences in opinions between these two groups and their correspondence with public policy. Its main finding is that millionaires are substantially more right-wing than the public on economic issues and somewhat more internationalist on foreign affairs, though a number of areas of agreement can be found as well, particularly assessments of the problems facing the country. Most surprisingly, the opinions of the public appear more likely to correspond with policy than those of millionaires. These findings have important implications for the rise of populism and the quality of democracy in the Czech Republic.

KEYWORDS:

Inequality

millionaires

public opinion

representation

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Jason Seawright, Tim Frye, and anonymous reviewers for helpful comments.

Notes

1. Studies of Europe with similar results include Peters and Ensink ([2015](#)) and Giger, Rosset, and Bernauer ([2012](#)). But see Bartels ([2016](#)) for a case of responsiveness to the less well-off.
2. The communist regime did have elites, but space for the accumulation of capital was very limited. On the privileges of the elite and the so-called “new class” under communism, see Szelenyi ([1978](#)).
3. Several of the surveys also included Slovak millionaires, though there were fewer (50–70 versus 150–200 Czech millionaires), and sometimes the parallel survey of the Slovak public is lacking. For these reasons, we did not consider them here. Overall, opinion differences between Slovak millionaires and the public were of a similar magnitude to the Czech Republic.
4. Data are available at Roberts ([2018](#)).
5. The survey also asked about support for direct democracy and creating a long-term development plan for the country, which did not fit in these categories. The public was considerably more supportive than millionaires of direct democracy and the development plan elicited similar levels of support.
6. We did not code these items as left or right.
7. Page, Bartels, and Seawright ([2013](#)) find the reverse in the United States, where indebtedness was the most pressing problem for US millionaires.
8. Gilens used a four-year window, which means that time remains for many of the issues considered here.

9. A handful of policies were repeated twice. We included both items separately as a gauge of the salience of the issue. Results were similar when we averaged the two items.

Additional information

Funding

This work was supported by the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic under the auspices of the project “The Quality of Democracy: The Czech Republic in Comparative Perspective” [GA 15-2274S)].

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
2

[Religion and Brexit: populism and the Church of England >](#)

Greg Smith et al.

Religion, State and Society

Published online: 15 Aug 2018

[New political parties through the voters' eyes >](#)

Alexander Wuttke

West European Politics

Published online: 13 May 2019

[Right-wing populism in a metropolis: Personal financial stress, conservative attitudes, and Rob Ford's Toronto >](#)

Simon J. Kiss et al.

Journal of Urban Affairs

Published online: 18 Sep 2019

[View more](#)

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



Taylor & Francis
by informa