

All the King's Men: Political Appointments in Bulgarian Ministries

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Abstract: This paper is intended as part of an edited volume project examining political appointments and ministerial advisers in CEE countries. The paper examines the Bulgarian case, focusing on current and recent formal political appointments in the ministries, including ministers, deputy ministers, cabinet chiefs, ministerial advisors and others. The paper examines biographies and career paths of political appointees in an attempt to assess formal and informal recruitment criteria, level of expertise, political loyalty and more. The paper builds the foundation for a broader examination of politico-administrative relations in the Bulgarian institutional setting, including merit vs. politicization in the public administration, formal and informal power, reputation and role perception. The paper utilizes official government sources, information from media sources, and interviews.