Legislators are entrusted with key parliamentary functions and are important figures in the decision-making process. Their behaviour as political elites is as much responsible for the failures and successes of the new democracies as their institutional designs and constitutional reforms.

This book provides a comparative examination of representative elites and their role in democratic development in post-communist Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). It argues that as the drivers of the transformation process in CEE, individual and collective parliamentary actors matter. The authors provide an in-depth analysis of representatives from eleven national parliaments and explore country-specific features of recruitment and representation. They draw on an integrated dataset of parliamentary elites for individual, party family, and parliamentary variables over the 20 years following the collapse of Communism and develop a common framework for the analysis of variations in democratisation and political professionalisation between parliaments and political parties/party families across CEE.

This unique volume will be of interest to students and scholars of comparative politics, elite research, post-communist politics, democratisation, legislative studies, and parliamentary representation.

Table of Contents:

1. Parliamentary elite formation after communism: an introduction ELENA SEMENOVA, MICHAEL EDINGER, AND HEINRICH BEST

Part I: Central European Parliaments

2. The Czech parliament on the road to professionalization and stabilization ZDENKA MANSFELDOVÁ

3. Hungarian MPs in the context of political transformation GABRIELLA ILONSZKI AND ANDRÁS SCHWARCZ

4. The Polish Diet since 1989: from fragmentation to consolidation JACEK WASILEWSKI AND WITOLD BETKIEWICZ

Part II: Baltic

5. Parliaments Recruitment of parliamentary representatives in an ethno-liberal democracy: Estonia MINDAUGAS KUKLYS

6. Legislative elites in multi-ethnic Latvia after 1990 MINDAUGAS KUKLYS

7. Lithuanian parliamentary elites after 1990: dilemmas of political representation and political professionalism IRMINA MATONYTĖ AND GINTARAS ŠUMSKAS

8. Croatian parliamentary elites: towards professionalization and homogenization VLASTA ILIŠIN and GORAN ČULAR

Part III: Post-Soviet Parliaments

9. The ‘waiting room’: Romanian parliament after 1989 LAURENTIU ŞTEFAN AND RĂZVAN GRECU

10. Legislative elite formation in Moldova: continuity and change WILLIAM CROWTHER

11. Parliamentary representation and MPs in Russia: historical retrospective and comparative perspective OXANA GAMAN-GOLUTVINA

12. Parliamentary representation in post-communist Ukraine: change and stability ELENA SEMENOVA

13. Patterns of parliamentary elite recruitment in post-communist Europe: a comparative analysis ELENA SEMENOVA, MICHAEL EDINGER, AND HEINRICH BEST