

# **NATO Membership and the Democratization of Post- Communist Countries**

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# Introduction

- Interest in International Organizations influence on countries
- Stronger understanding of how NATO and other organizations can change or influence a country for better or for worse

# Literature Review

- What do we know...
  - Started out as a response to potential Soviet aggression (Mastny)
  - What to do after the Cold War? (Barany, Mansfield, Asmus)
  - 3 Expansions (Reiter, Dodds)
- What we don't know
  - Many reasons for becoming democratic- which ones were most influential as a group of countries?
  - NATO membership as a factor
  - Nearly doubled membership since 1999

## Research Question

- Was NATO membership a factor in post-communist countries' decision to democratize?

# Theory

- NATO membership is a positive incentive for post-communist countries to democratize
  - Offers protection
  - Stable environment
  - Creates like-minded allies

## Data and Methods

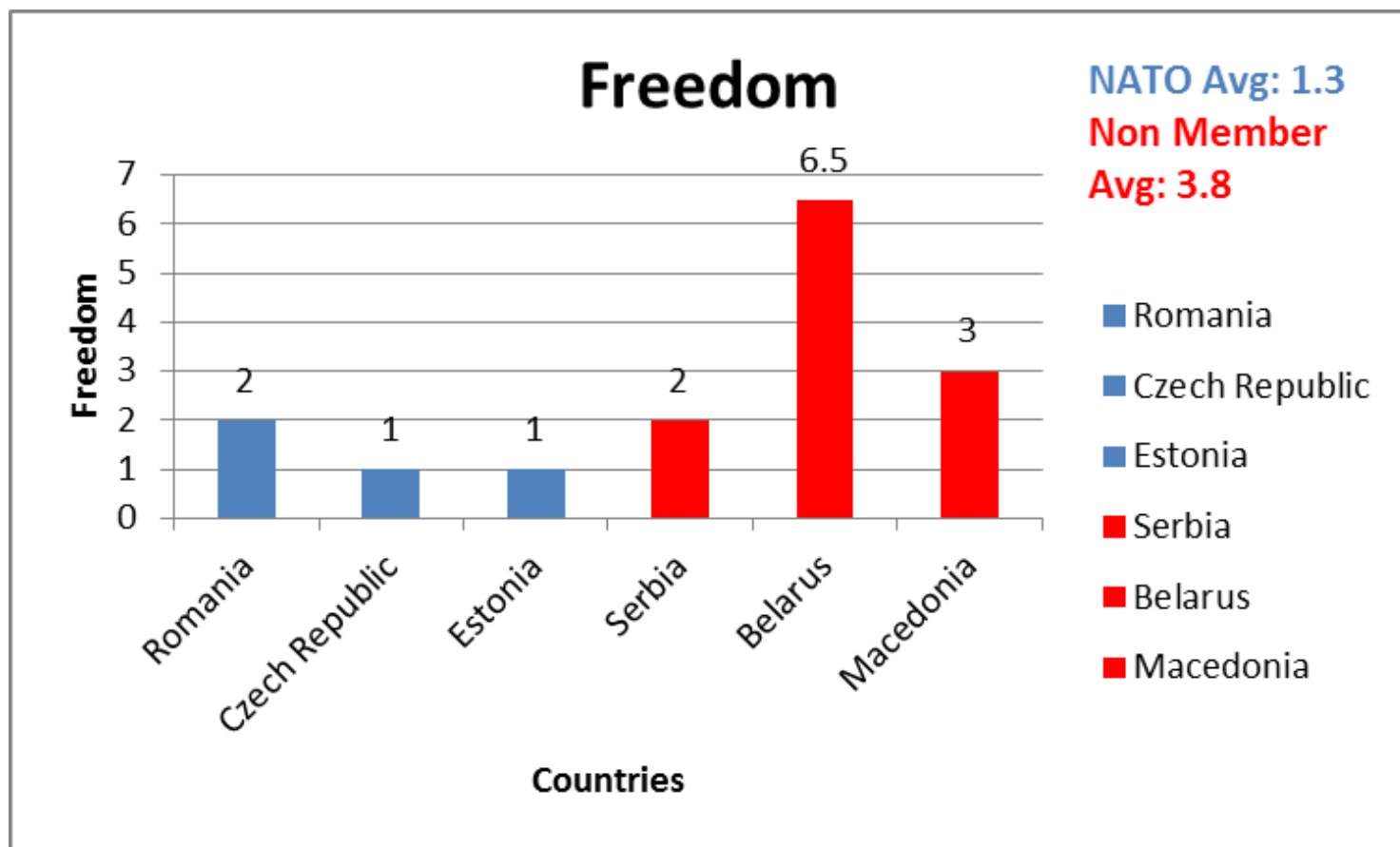
- Case studies
  - Compare 6 countries and their democracy levels
  - 3 countries are NATO members and 3 are not
    - Romania (2004)
    - Czech Republic (1999)
    - Estonia (2004)
    - Serbia
    - Belarus
    - Macedonia
  - Freedom House data



## Hypotheses

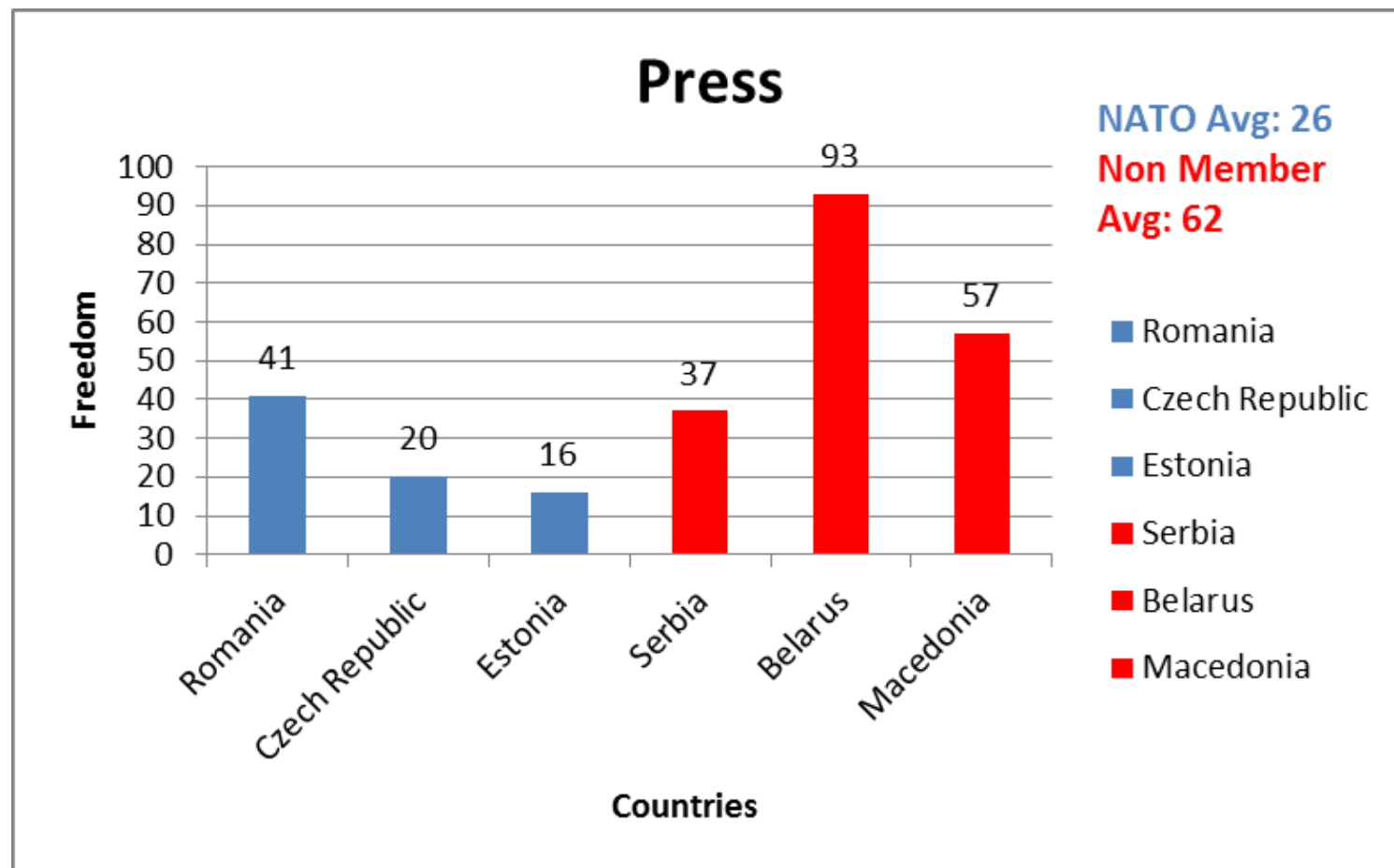
- As NATO membership becomes an option, more post-communist countries will move to democratize.
- Null Hypothesis- no relationship

# Results

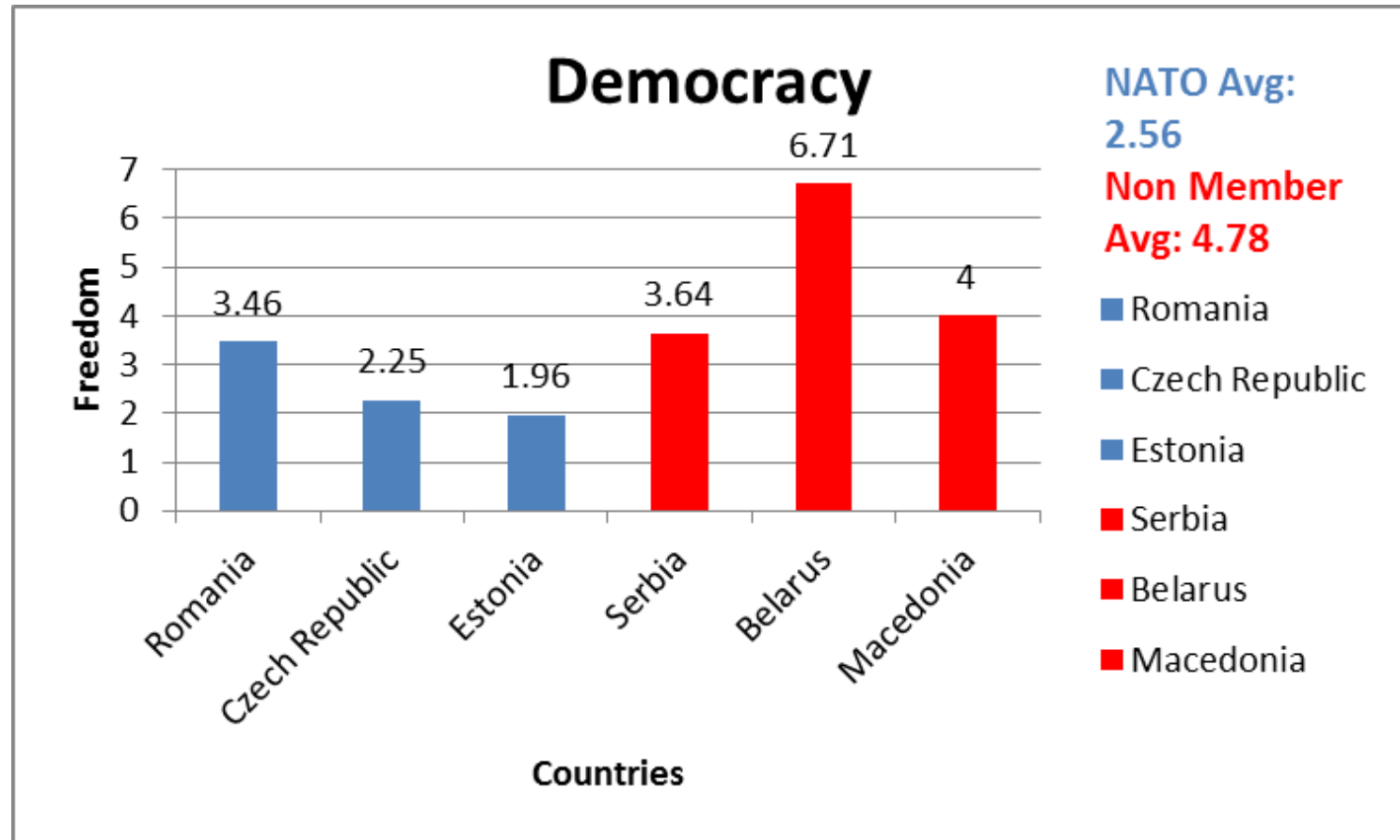




# Results



# Results



# Estonia

- 1989 Singing Revolution through the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- August 1991- Declared independence from the USSR
- June 1992- adopted current constitution
- 2004- Joined NATO and the EU
- 2011- Joined the Euro Zone

# Macedonia

- 1980- death of life long dictator Tito and Yugoslavia began to feel tensions among 6 regions
- 3<sup>rd</sup> region to declare independence in September of 1991
- Greece resistance to acceptance
- Corruption, high unemployment and slow economic growth- biggest problems

## Conclusions and Discussion

- For these six countries on average NATO members were more democratic than nonmembers
- Supports theory that NATO membership enticed countries to
- Still do not know how influential of a factor NATO membership was, just that it was probably a factor
- Another factor for future study would be the EU's influence