

**Privatization's Unequal Toll: Explaining Cross-Country  
Variation in Mortality and Health Outcomes After Transition  
From Communism**

# Introduction

The collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the former Soviet Union in the late 1980s and early 1990s marked a significant turning point in global political and economic history. The complexity of carrying out political, territorial, and economic reforms simultaneously is often termed the "dilemma of synchronicity" [1]. A cornerstone of this economic paradigm shift was privatization, which entailed the replacement of planned economies with free-market principles. That process was expected to lead to increased efficiency, economic growth, and improved living standards. However, the outcomes of this transition have been far from uniform across countries, with some nations experiencing significant improvements in health and mortality rates, while others have faced deteriorating conditions [2].

This paper draws on ...

# Relevant Literature

## References

- [1] Sabrina P. Ramet, editor. *Central and Southeast European Politics Since 1989*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2010.
- [2] Elizabeth Brainerd. Market reform and mortality in transition economies. *World Development*, 26(11):2013–2027, 1998. doi: 10.1016/S0305-750X(98)00108-8.