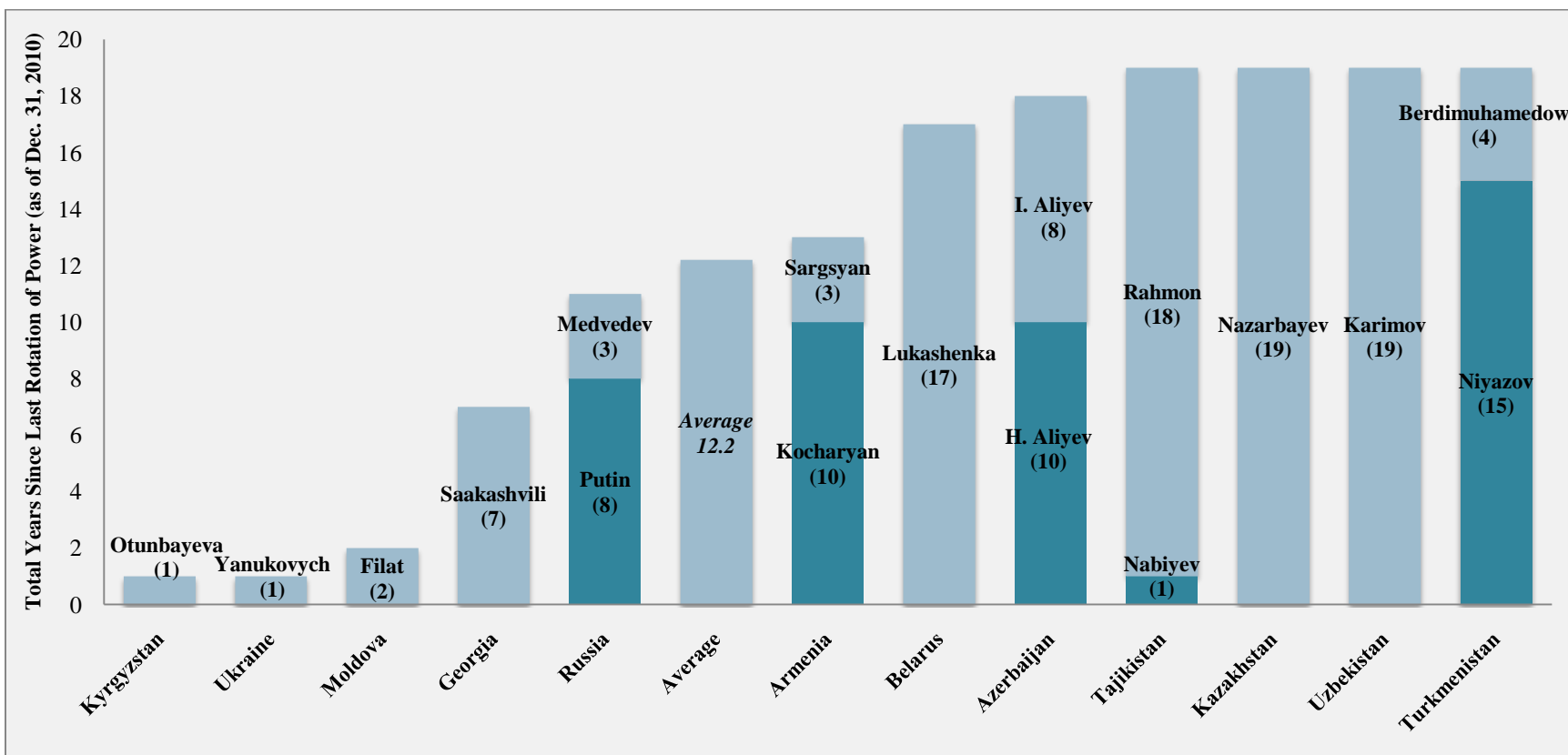


Entrenched Leadership in the Former Soviet Union



Notes:

Russia: Dmitry Medvedev, the hand-picked successor of Vladimir Putin, became president in 2008; Putin, now the prime minister, is still widely regarded as Russia's most powerful political figure.

Armenia: Robert Kocharyan's chosen successor, Serzh Sargsyan, won the presidency in a flawed 2008 election that was followed by a violent crackdown on opposition protesters.

Azerbaijan: Ilham Aliyev succeeded his ailing father, Heydar Aliyev, through a 2003 election marred by fraud.

Tajikistan: Emomali Rahmon emerged as acting head of state shortly after President Rahmon Nabiyev, also a member of the old Communist Party leadership, was forced to resign amid civil war in 1992.

Turkmenistan: Following the sudden death of Saparmurat Niyazov in late 2006, the ruling elite installed Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow as his successor without competitive elections.