

Journal of Democracy

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the problems of and prospects for democracy around the world



Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, "The Other Transition", in *Journal of Democracy*. *Twenty Years of Postcommunism*, John Hopkins University Press, January 2010, Volume 21, Number 1

In this anniversary edition of the *Journal of Democracy*, seven leading experts on Central Europe and the former Soviet Union examine the progress of democratization in the postcommunist world since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and point to the challenges that lie ahead. Among them, Alina Mungiu Pippidi authors the article entitled "The Other Transition" in which she examines the two formal transformations in the postcommunist state – the transition from a command economy to a market economy and the transition from authoritarianism/totalitarianism to democracy. The article tries to compensate for the lack of scholarly insight into the postcommunist state qua state model, alongside the relationship between society and state in the postcommunist model. The author discusses the new social contract that had to be written in different formats in the different states that entered postcommunism. The conclusion of the article is that in some postcommunist state, the state and society have been able to forge a new social contract, whilst in others they have not been.

Twentieth Anniversary Issue

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Democracy's Past and Future

*Francis Fukuyama • Thomas Sander & Robert Putnam
Philippe C. Schmitter • Guillermo O'Donnell
Larry Diamond • Marc F. Plattner • Andreas Schedler
Steven Levitsky & Lucan Way
Laurence Whitehead • Bruce Gilley*

Twenty Years of Postcommunism

*Ivan Krastev • Lilla Shervette
Jacques Rignot • Aino Margio-Piggidi
Václav Tlučenec • Gábor Nodia
Charles H. Fairbanks, Jr.*

CURRENT ISSUE

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Democracy's Past and Future

The Editors

Still Bowling Alone? The Post-9/11 Split

Thomas H. Sander and Robert D. Putnam

The crisis of the 9/11 terrorist attacks has sparked a surge of increased civic engagement by young people in the United States, but there is also evidence of a growing divide along class lines.

Twenty-Five Years, Fifteen Findings

Philippe C. Schmitter

A coauthor of the pathbreaking study *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule* reflects on the lessons that he has learned about democratic transition and consolidation since the publication of this work nearly 25 years ago.

Schmitter's Retrospective: A Few Dissenting Notes

Guillermo O'Donnell

Another coauthor of *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule* questions whether his former collaborator is underrating the current dangers to democracy.

Transitions to the Rule of Law

Francis Fukuyama

While we have witnessed many transitions to multiparty systems, it has proven much harder for countries to attain a genuine rule of law. We need to know more about the origins of the rule of law in order to promote it successfully today.

The Crash of '08

Laurence Whitehead

The short-term political impact of the economic crisis has been less dramatic than initially expected, but it may have lasting effects on the "quality" of democracy, including the legitimacy of prevailing financial institutions.

Why Democracy Needs a Level Playing Field

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way

In some countries, democratic competition is undermined less by electoral fraud or repression than by a skewed playing field—unequal access to state institutions, resources, and the media.

Authoritarianism's Last Line of Defense

Andreas Schedler

The new electoral authoritarian regimes of the post-Cold War era have formally

adopted the full panoply of liberal-democratic institutions. Rather than rejecting or repressing these institutions, they manipulate them.

Populism, Pluralism, and Liberal Democracy

Marc F. Plattner

In recent years, scholars have begun to focus on the sources of “authoritarian resilience.” But democracy has also shown surprising resilience, in part because the disorders to which it is prone tend to counteract each other.

Why Are There No Arab Democracies?

Larry Diamond

Democracy has held its own or gained ground in just about every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. Why has this crucial region remained such infertile soil for democracy?

Twenty Years of Postcommunism

Seven leading experts on Central Europe and the former Soviet Union examine the progress of democratization in the postcommunist world since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and point to the challenges that lie ahead.

In Search of A New Model *Jacques Rupnik*

Deepening Dissatisfaction *Ivan Krastev*

The Other Transition *Alina Mungiu-Pippidi*

Citizenship Restored *Vladimir Tismaneanu*

Freedom and the State *Ghia Nodia*

Georgia's Soviet Legacy *Charles H. Fairbanks, Jr.*

What's the Matter with Russia? *Lilia Shevtsova*

Review Essay

Democratic Triumph, Scholarly Pessimism *Bruce Gilley* By any measure, democratization has achieved remarkable advances over the past twenty years. Why, then, have so many of the leading works written on the topic during this period been so full of gloom?

Election Watch

Reports on recent elections in Afghanistan, Botswana, Gabon, Honduras, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Romania, Tunisia, and Uruguay.

Documents on Democracy

Excerpts from **Ayman Nour's video message** to the National Endowment for Democracy's November 18 conference, "Middle Eastern Democrats and Their Vision of the Future."

Selections from **Wang Lixiong's speech** accepting the International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth Award. Wang Lixiong, a Chinese

writer, coauthored a 12 March 2008 open letter to the Chinese authorities entitled "Twelve Suggestions for Handling the Tibetan Situation."

Portions of **Ladan Boroumand's speech** accepting the Lech Walesa Prize, awarded by the Lech Walesa Institute Foundation in Gdansk to three Iranian human-rights activists—Ladan and Roya Boroumand, the founders of the Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation, and Shadi Sadr of the End Stoning Forever campaign.

Selections from the "**EU Agenda for Action**"—the annex to the "Conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU's External Relations" adopted by the Council of the European Union on November 17.

Leszek Kolakowski (1927–2009)

The eminent Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski, who had a major influence on the development of the Polish democratic opposition, died on 17 July 2009. A memorial symposium entitled "**Democracy, Totalitarianism, and the Culture of Freedom**" was held in his honor at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, D.C., on October 15. A second **memorial symposium** was held on October 24 at the University of Warsaw, organized by the Stefan Batory Foundation. Selected excerpts from speeches at these two events appear in the *Journal*.