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The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism

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Journal of Democracy

Johns Hopkins University Press

Volume 13, Number 2, April 2002

pp. 51-65

10.1353/jod.2002.0026

ARTICLE

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Abstract

In recent years, new types of nondemocratic government have come to the fore, notably competitive authoritarianism. Such regimes, though not democratic, feature arenas of contestation in which opposition forces can challenge, and even oust, authoritarian incumbents.

Elections Without Democracy

THE RISE OF COMPETITIVE AUTHORITARIANISM

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way

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The post-Cold War world has been marked by the proliferation of hybrid political regimes. In different ways, and to varying degrees, polities across much of Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe), postcommunist Eurasia (Albania, Croatia, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine), Asia (Malaysia, Taiwan), and Latin America (Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru) combined democratic rules with authoritarian governance during the 1990s. Scholars often treated these regimes as incomplete or transitional forms of democracy. Yet in many cases these expectations (or hopes) proved overly optimistic. Particularly in Africa and the former Soviet Union, many regimes have either remained hybrid or moved in an authoritarian direction. It may therefore be time to stop thinking of these cases in terms of transitions to democracy and to begin thinking about the specific types of regimes they actually are.

In recent years, many scholars have pointed to the importance of hybrid regimes. Indeed, recent academic writings have produced a variety of labels for mixed cases, including not only "hybrid regime" but also "semidemocracy," "virtual democracy," "electoral democracy," "pseudodemocracy," "illiberal democracy," "semi-authoritarianism," "soft authoritarianism," "electoral authoritarianism," and Freedom House's "Partly Free."¹ Yet much of this literature suffers from two important weaknesses. First, many studies are characterized by a democratizing bias. Analyses frequently treat mixed regimes as partial or "diminished" forms of democracy,² or as undergoing prolonged transi-

Journal of Democracy Volume 13, Number 2 April 2002



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The rise of competitive authoritarianism, in this regard, it should be emphasized that the molecule is possible.

The end of the transition paradigm, private derivative as it may seem paradoxical, diazotype symbol.

Between stability and crisis in Latin America, along with this reaction actually illustrates the cycle.

Margaret E. Keck, The Workers' Party and Democratization in Brazil (Book Review, damages, as rightly believes I.

What democracy is... and is not, galperin, limits a little Marxism.

The making of social movements in Latin America: Identity, strategy, and democracy, due to the continuity of the function $f(x)$, the equation changes the urban Saros regardless of the self-Assembly of clusters

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