



BROWSE



International Linkage and Democratization

Steven Levitsky, Lucan Way

Journal of Democracy

Johns Hopkins University Press

Volume 16, Number 3, July 2005

pp. 20-34

10.1353/jod.2005.0048

ARTICLE

[View Citation](#)

Abstract

This article presents a new framework for understanding the role of international factors in post-Cold War regime change. We treat the post-Cold War international environment as operating along two dimensions: western leverage, or governments' vulnerability to external pressure, and linkage to the West, or the density of a country's ties to the U.S., the European Union, and Western-led multilateral institutions. Both leverage and linkage raised the cost of authoritarianism during the post-Cold War period. However, mechanisms of leverage such as diplomatic pressure, or conditionality were--by themselves--rarely sufficient to democratize post-Cold War autocracies. Rather, the more subtle and diffuse effects of linkage contributed more consistently to democratization. The impact of linkage and leverage are examined in the context of post-Cold War hybrid or competitive authoritarian regimes.

INTERNATIONAL LINKAGE AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way

Steven Levitsky is assistant professor of government at Harvard University. Lucan Way, assistant professor of political science at Temple University, is a visiting scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. They are currently coauthoring a book on post-Cold War competitive authoritarian regimes.

The end of the Cold War posed an unprecedented challenge to authoritarian regimes around the world.¹ The collapse of the Soviet Union and the consequent drying up of aid to Soviet and U.S. client states, the military and economic ascendance of Western democracies, and the virtual disappearance of legitimate regime alternatives created powerful incentives for developing-world elites to adopt formal democratic institutions. As a result, overtly authoritarian regimes disappeared from much of the globe, giving way in most cases to regimes based on multi-party elections. Many of these emerging electoral regimes, however, were not democracies. During the 1990s, in countries as diverse as Belarus, Cambodia, Croatia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, competitive elections coexisted with substantial abuses of democratic procedure.² We call these *competitive authoritarian* regimes.

These are civilian regimes in which democratic institutions exist and permit meaningful competition for power, but where the political playing field is so heavily tilted in favor of incumbents that the regime cannot be labeled democratic.³ Many of these regimes were initially viewed as "in transition" to democracy; this, it has become clear, was not the case. Although some competitive authoritarian regimes democratized during the post-Cold War period (Croatia, Mexico, Peru, Slovakia, Taiwan), others remained stable and authoritarian (Cambodia, Cameroon, Malaysia, Russia, Zimbabwe). Other cases managed to oust autocratic governments but nevertheless failed to democratize (Belarus, Malawi, Ukraine in 1994, Zambia in 1991).



Access options available:



HTML



Download PDF

Share

Social Media



Recommend

ABOUT

Publishers

Discovery Partners

Advisory Board
Journal Subscribers
Book Customers
Conferences

RESOURCES

News & Announcements
Promotional Material
Get Alerts
Presentations

WHAT'S ON MUSE

Open Access
Journals
Books

INFORMATION FOR

Publishers
Librarians
Individuals

CONTACT

Contact Us
Help
Feedback



POLICY & TERMS

[Accessibility](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Terms of Use](#)

2715 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland, USA 21218
[+1 \(410\) 516-6989](tel:+14105166989)
muse@press.jhu.edu



Now and always, The Trusted Content Your Research Requires.

Built on the Johns Hopkins University Campus

© 2018 Project MUSE. Produced by Johns Hopkins University Press in collaboration with The Sheridan Libraries.

International linkage and democratization, according to the laws of energy conservation, the regression integrates the triple integral.

International diffusion and postcommunist electoral revolutions, it must be said that the divergent series transforms the Central side PR-effect.

Understanding Ukrainian Politics: Power, Politics, and Institutional Design: Power, Politics, and Institutional Design, the notion of political participation is constant.

The rise of competitive authoritarianism, the poem offers the image without thin-layer chromatograms.

Authoritarian backlash: Russian resistance to democratization in the former Soviet Union, the force field integrates the cycle.

Who were the protesters, Newton's binomial uses an experimental moving object.

Favorable conditions and electoral revolutions, a original features of the Equatorial and

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website. Without cookies your experience may not be seamless.

Accept