The role of the UN, regional organizations, and bilateral donors for strengthening democratic governance

DPI~403 Class 2

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1. Overview of the diffusion of democratic governance
   • Patterns of regional democratic diffusion

2. Role of the international community
   • Agencies and strategies
   • Pros and cons
Reading

- Barbara Wejnert 2005. ‘Diffusion, Development and Democracy 1800-1999.’ *ASR*
Core questions

- Can the international community strengthen democracy around the world?
- Why has the notion of development gradually shifted from poverty towards the issues of widening human choice, capabilities and democratic governance?
1. The diffusion of democracy
How do international factors shape regime transitions?

- **Lawrence Whitehead**
  - Democratization through convergence
  - E.g. Spain, Portugal, Greece and ...

- **Geoff Pridham**
  - System penetration

- **Douglas Chalmers**
  - Internationalized domestic politics

- **Sam Huntington**
  - Democratic diffusion
How does diffusion work?

- Brinks and Coppedge 2006
  - Global and regional factors influence regime change 1972-96
- Gleditsch and Ward 2006
  - Democratic transition occurs more frequently due to democratic neighboring states

Critique:
- What causes any diffusion?
- What interventions and programs work?
Wejnert: Diffusion 1800-1999

- **Endogenous characteristics**
  - Socioeconomic conditions, levels of urbanization, industrialization
  - Lipset

- **Or exogenous factors**
  - Global forces (e.g., media), regional influences, spatial proximity, economic power, colonial networks, regional associations
Wejnert: Evidence

- 168 nation-states from 1800-1999
- Democracy measured by Polity V by Jagger & Gurr
- Socioeconomic development GNP/capita, urbanization, literacy, non-agricultural labor force, world system position (Banks CNTS dataset)
- Diffusion: spatial density, membership networks, colonial networks, media access
Wejnert: Results

- Hierarchical growth models
- Table 1 – See p65-66
- Model 1 – time
- Model 2 – development
- Model 3 – diffusion
- Model 4 – historical events
Wejnert: Conclusions

- Development alone is significant (GNP per capita, literacy, etc).
- BUT once diffusion was added to Model 3, the significance of development faded.
- Spatial proximity, regional networks.
- Media access not sig (media freedom?)
- Policy implications?
2. International agencies and strategies
Types of actors

- UN and its agencies
  - e.g. ICNRD, CD, IPU, IDEA, IFES, TI

- International NGOs E.g.
  - E.g. European Union, African Union, Organization of American States

- Multilateral organizations
  - Government development ministries
    - E.g. Dfid, Norad, Cida, Sida
  - NGO development agencies e.g.
    - Stiftungen, NED, NDI, ABA

- Regional organizations

- Bilaterals
  - e.g. Microsoft, CISCO

- PPPs
Strategic options

Types of strategies

- Capacity development
  - With civil society
  - With government
- Monitoring
- Brokerage
- Legal conventions
- Aid Conditionality
- Financial
- Military
- With government
- Elections
- Dialogue
- International
- Regional
- Positive
- Negative
- Trade sanctions
- Debt relief
- Peacekeeping Force
- External intervention
- Corruption
- Diplomacy

Give example of each?
Any other options?
Which options are used most often?
Pros and cons of each?