

Importing Democracy: The Role of NGOs in South Africa, Tajikistan and Argentina

Annotated Table of Contents

1. Introduction

In addition to introducing my focus, methodology, and field research, this chapter reviews the literature linking the development of civil society and democratization. It also describes the need to focus on more specifically on democratization NGOs that consciously and directly promote democracy.

2. South Africa: History, Politics, and Civil Society

This chapter focuses on recent South African history, the current status of democracy and the overall contours of civil society, including democratization NGOs as one type of intermediary NGO. The relationship between intermediary NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) receives particular attention.

3. Building a Loyal Opposition and Law-Based Civil Liberties: The Role of Civil Society in South Africa

Chapter 3 first explores the general role of civil society, including business and the media, in indirectly strengthening the democratization process and, thus, a kind of loyal opposition. Next it focuses on the more direct role of democratization NGOs in strengthening or even becoming the loyal opposition in South Africa. The second topic of the chapter is the specific role of democratization NGOs in promoting legal reform, civil liberties and human rights.

4. Nurturing a Democratic Political Culture and Deepening Political Participation: The Role of Civil Society in South Africa

This chapter explores the role of civil society in general and democratization NGOs in particular in nurturing a sustainable democratic political culture. This includes a discussion of civic education, advocacy against corruption and the use of non-violence. The section on political participation includes a discussion of deliberative democracy.

5. Tajikistan: History, Politics and Civil Society

This chapter follows the same outline as Chapter 2 on South Africa, except that civil society in Tajikistan is mainly composed of NGOs and does not include the strong CSOs (civil society organizations), media and businesses that are active in South Africa. Given the importance of international assistance, the chapter also includes a section on international NGOs in Tajikistan.

6. Building a Loyal Opposition and Law-Based Civil Liberties: The Role of Civil Society in Tajikistan

This chapter focuses mainly on democratization NGOs and their role in strengthening civil society as a potential loyal opposition and promoting law-based civil liberties and it is similar to Chapter 3 in organization.

7. Nurturing a Democratic Political Culture and Deepening Political Participation: The Role of Civil Society in Tajikistan

The section on political culture focuses on the role of dialogue and deliberation in relation to non-violence that grew out of the civil war. It also deals with civic education and the efforts of democratization NGOs to combat corruption. The chapter next focuses on Tajikistan's deliberative traditions at the community level, and efforts to recover them as a way of promoting both political participation and a democratic political culture.

8. Argentina: History, Politics and Civil Society

An overview of Argentine history is used to illuminate the complexities of Argentine politics. The discussion of civil society begins with the fall of the military dictatorship in 1982. It is similar to Chapters 2 and 5 in organization.

9. Loyal Opposition, Law-Based Civil Liberties, and Strengthening the State in Argentina

This chapter begins with a discussion of how democratization NGOs strengthen or become the loyal opposition. This is followed by an extensive discussion of democratization NGOs that focus on human rights, civil liberties and legal reform. There is also a third section, not found in the chapters about South Africa or Tajikistan, that deals with strengthening governmental capacities, a more common role for democratization NGOs in Argentina than in South Africa or Tajikistan.

10. Nurturing a Democratic Political Culture and Political Participation in Argentina

This chapter focuses on civic education in Argentina, as well as conflict resolution and campaigns against corruption. The discussion of political participation emphasizes public deliberation, used by a number of democratization NGOs.

11. Conclusions

This chapter compares the role of democratization NGOs in the three countries and assesses their overall contributions to democratization.

12. International Implications and Recommendations

This chapter includes a discussion of international democracy assistance and twelve specific recommendations for advancing democracy.

Appendix I. List of Interviews

Appendix II. Democratization NGOs in Other Countries

Appendix III. An Overview of Democracy Assistance

Bibliographies