

Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization

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Book Review

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The collapse of some three dozen authoritarian regimes during the last decades of the 20th century inspired a surge of research into the factors and processes driving transitions to democracy. Nevertheless, much of this optimistic scholarship neglected the fact that more authoritarian regimes weathered the third wave of democracy than were felled by it. The varying fates of autocratic regimes under conditions of liberalization constitute a crucial puzzle for scholars of comparative politics. Specifically, why are some autocratic governments overthrown after introducing elections, whereas others hold elections yet maintain autocracy?

The answer, Jason Brownlee contends in this fascinating and impressive work, is the presence and strength of ruling parties. Ruling parties are predominant organizations in regimes that permit, though systematically disadvantage, other parties. Brownlee argues that the existence of a ruling party is sufficient for durable authoritarianism because it provides a structure for collective agenda setting and dispute mediation that regulate elites' clashing preferences and ambitions. The decline of such parties increases the likelihood of elite defection from ruling coalitions and is thus necessary for the emergence of structural opportunities for democratization. Whether autocrats survive or fall during these interludes depends on the strategies of elite "soft-liners," the availability of moderate allies with whom they can create counteralliances, and the ability of these counteralliances to mobilize mass support.

Brownlee tests this argument through a large-sample assessment of causal effects and a small-sample demonstration of causal mechanisms. Building on Barbara Geddes's 1999 study, he finds that logit regression analysis on 135 authoritarian regimes from 1975 to 2000 yields two results. First, limited multiparty elections under authoritarianism had no statistically significant effect on the stability of authoritarian regimes. Second, regardless of whether elections were introduced, single-party regimes were the most robust type of authoritarianism. These findings make an important contribution, although not precisely the contribution that the author posits. Brownlee concludes, "Regimes without the party institutions for managing their coalitions are vulnerable to being destabilized by elections whereas those that rule through parties can reap prolonged dominance over their rivals" (p. 32). His model, including elections and regime type as separate variables, tests the durability of regimes, controlling for elections—not the durability of different regimes, given elections. To evaluate the latter proposition, the author would have needed to test a model that included an interaction term capturing the joint effect of elections and regime type.

This point notwithstanding, the statistical analysis provides a sound basis for the selection of case studies on Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The ensuing

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Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization and the Philippines, in this book Jason Brownlee shows that the mixed record of recent democratization is best. Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization, Jason Brownlee, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ISBN , pp. Although, "Why does conducting elections sometimes undermine authoritarian regimes and sometimes seem to fortify them? Jason Brownlee answers this timely and. Far from sweeping the globe uniformly, the 'third wave of democratization' left burgeoning republics and resilient dictatorships in its wake. Request PDF on ResearchGate Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization Far from sweeping the globe uniformly, the third wave of. Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization. By Jason Brownlee. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. \$ cloth, \$ Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. DOI: / The collapse of some three . Book Review: Brownlee, J. (). Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization . Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. Show all authors. Synopsis: Far from sweeping the globe uniformly, the 'third wave of democratization' left burgeoning republics and resilient dictatorships in its wake. Applying. Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization has 29 ratings and 0 reviews. Far from sweeping the globe uniformly, the 'third wave of. Table of Contents for Authoritarianism in an age of democratization / Jason Brownlee, available from the Library of Congress. Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization. J Brownlee Harbinger of democracy: competitive elections before the end of authoritarianism. J Brownlee. democratization. The literature Key Words: authoritarian states; democracy; elections; parties; media Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization. authoritarianism in an age of democratization? 4 After a decade of work in this vein, it is worth pausing and considering what we have learned. The books that. Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization: Comparative Political Studies. Wendy R Pearlman Political Science. Research output: Other contribution. haunting me recently: 1) Why are authoritarian regimes surviving in the age of democratization? 2) Why did political science fail to anticipate.

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