



Development Institute

“Is Democracy for Everyone?”

LESSON PLAN

Prerequisite: CIPE Development Institute video interview with Larry Diamond

I. Message

The number of democratic states around the world has been steadily climbing over the last few decades, including countries that were previously deemed unlikely candidates for achieving democratic transitions: former communist states in Eastern Europe, Muslim-majority countries such as Indonesia, or poor African countries like Mali. However, in recent years, this optimistic trend has seen some serious reversals: Russia, Venezuela, and Nigeria to name a few. In the past, the key question of democratic development was whether the whole world could one day be democratic. Today we know that, in principle, the answer is yes. But a more consequential question arises: How can countries that became democracies stay democratic?

II. Objectives

1. Understand the distinction between electoral and liberal democracy.
2. Explore how countries that democratize can stay democratic.
3. Discuss specific cases of democracy backlash and its causes.
4. Discuss the prospects for lasting democratization around the world.

III. Discussion questions

1. What is the spirit of democracy?
2. Can the whole world become democratic?
3. What does being democratic mean exactly?
4. Are free and fair elections sufficient to sustain democracy?
5. What is liberal democracy and how is it different from electoral democracy?
6. Is an authoritarian capitalist regime an alternative model to democracy?

IV. Reading list

Required readings:

- Diamond, Larry, *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies throughout the World*, Times Books, 2008.
- Diamond, Larry and Leonardo Morlino, “The Quality of Democracy: An Overview,” *Journal of Democracy*, October 2004.
- Freedom House, *Freedom in the World* annual report, 2008 (and previous years), <http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=15>.
- Love, Partick, “Democracy: What Future?” *OECD Observer*, No. 246/247, December 2004 - January 2005, [http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/1510/Democracy: What future .html](http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/1510/Democracy:_What_future_.html).

Optional readings:

- Carothers, Thomas, “The End of the Transition Paradigm,” *Journal of Democracy* 13, January 2002, <http://muse.jhu.edu/demo/jod/13.1carothers.html>.
- Dahl, Robert, “The Past and the Future of Democracy,” Centre for the Study of Political Change, No. 5, 1999, http://www.gips.unisi.it/circap/file_download/9.
- Diamond, Larry, *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.
- Huntington, Samuel P., *The Third Wave: Democratization in the late Twentieth Century*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.
- Markoff, John, “Globalization and the Future of Democracy,” *Journal of World-Systems Research*, vol. 2, summer 1999, 277-309, http://jwsr.ucr.edu/archive/vol5/number2/v5n2_split/jwsr_v5n2_markoff.pdf.
- Przeworski, Adam, Michael E. Alvarez, José Antonio Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi, *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*, Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Sen, Amartya, “Democracy as a Universal Value,” in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., *The Global Divergence of Democracies*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001, <http://muse.jhu.edu/demo/jod/10.3sen.html>.
- Waldron, Arthur, “How Would Democracy Change China?” Foreign Policy Research Institute, spring 2004, http://jwsr.ucr.edu/archive/vol5/number2/v5n2_split/jwsr_v5n2_markoff.pdf.

V. Lesson plan

Speaker's background

- Introducing Larry Diamond

Can the whole world become democratic?

- Global trends in Freedom House ratings and other democracy indicators
 - In the last 30 years, the number of democracies in the world has gone up from a quarter to about 60 percent of all countries
- What it means for a country to be democratic
- Distinctions between electoral and liberal democracy

Toward liberal democracy

- Goes beyond just elections
- Has a system of checks and balances
- Gives political rights and civil liberties to all its citizens
- Ensures the rule of law and impartial judiciary

Democracy in unlikely settings

- Former communist countries
- Majority-Muslim countries
- Poor developing countries

Democratic market economy vs. authoritarian capitalism

- China strives to present an alternative non-democratic development model
 - But will it last?
 - If China continues down the path of economic liberalization but denies individual rights to its citizens, the current system is not sustainable
- India provides a democratic development model with high economic growth

The role of business and non-governmental organizations in democratic development (China example)

- Small and medium entrepreneurs want more rule-based, transparent economy
- Citizens resist corruption they encounter in daily life
- Pluralism in the media and in the academia is increasing
- Environmental, human rights, and religious movements are gaining strength

Making democracy last

- Solidifying democracy doesn't happen overnight
- Democracies need to deliver in terms of sustained economic growth and better governance in public and private sectors
- Lasting democracy requires a shift in values
- Democratic norms are becoming internationally recognized and codified

VI. Sample test questions

- 1. What does Larry Diamond mean by the title of his latest book, *The Spirit of Democracy*?**
 - a. Democracy is a subjective feeling of internal freedom
 - b. Democracy is a universal value to which people around the world aspire
 - c. Democracy is a Western concept that lacks the global spirit

- 2. Liberal democracy requires the following features except**
 - a. Equality before the law
 - b. Freedom of speech
 - c. Bicameral legislative assembly
 - d. Free and fair elections

- 3. How is authoritarian capitalism different from free market democracy?**
 - a. Authoritarian countries always perform better economically
 - b. Authoritarian capitalism and free market democracy are culture-specific and certain cultures are inherently authoritarian
 - c. Authoritarian capitalism lacks the values of freedom, transparency, accountability, and responsibility that democratic market economies have
 - d. There are no major differences in how authoritarian capitalist and free market economies operate since they both allow private property

- 4. What are some of the reasons for democracy backlash?**
 - a. Weak governance
 - b. Insufficient economic reforms
 - c. Corruption
 - d. All of the above

- 5. Civil society is important for sustaining democracy because it (pick a false statement):**
 - a. Administers government resources toward most urgent social needs
 - b. Enhances pluralism through diversity of causes and opinions
 - c. Makes the government more responsive
 - d. Gives different citizens' groups a voice

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