

Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia,

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Reviews

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Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. xiv + 380, \$67.00, \$25.00 pb; £13.99 pb.

A few years ago Barbara Geddes asked, 'What do we know about democratization after twenty years?' and provided a very critical answer. Peter H. Smith's comprehensive analysis of democracy and democratisation in Latin America disproves her scepticism. The scholarly community knows a great deal about these important topics, and the volume under review aptly synthesises this knowledge. In this way, it provides an invaluable service, especially to a broader audience of students and non-specialists.

Democracy in Latin America is impressive in its scope. After a conceptual clarification, the author analyses the rise and fall of civilian competitive rule over the course of the twentieth century, analyses the socioeconomic and political factors that influence regime transitions, and investigates the changing roles of the military and of the international system (chapters one to four). Chapters five to seven examine the institutional functioning of democracy, focusing on the debate over presidentialism vs. parliamentarism, investigating presidential power, executive-legislative relations, and party systems, and probing the characteristics of elections. Attention then turns to the output side of democracy. Chapters eight to eleven compare the economic and social policy performance of various regime types; examine the mobilisation, participation, and influence of workers, women and indigenous groups; assess the guarantee of civil and political rights during the last two decades; and probe the depth of popular support for contemporary democracies. The concluding chapter presents Smith's overarching interpretation of Latin America's democratisation, and an epilogue extends the analysis to the new millennium.

While most of the volume synthesises existing knowledge, drawn from an admirably broad range of authors, Smith sets his own accents and highlights a number of important insights. His main argument – clarified perhaps too late in chapter twelve – is that the striking spread of democracy in Latin America and its greater sustainability in the last three decades have come at a price: democracy has been 'tamed' as radical voices have lost ground, the stakes of the political game have diminished, and elites have therefore seen little threat to their core interests. Both the agreements that many emerging democracies had to conclude with outgoing authoritarian regimes and the profound market reforms adopted in much of the region have contributed to this conservative outcome. As a result, free political competition has done little to address severe social problems, such as large-scale poverty and deep social inequality. While the decline of Latin America's oligarchies, the emergence of mass society and the impressive advance of democracy brought tremendous political change over the course of the twentieth century, they have had unexpectedly limited socioeconomic repercussions. In fact,

Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America Woodrow Wilson Center Press with Johns Hopkins University Press, This book studies the relation of decentralization to democratization at both and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America Order this book from The Johns Hopkins University Press here. Woodrow Wilson Center Press, May 19, - Political Science - pages and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Woodrow Wilson Center Press) [Philip. and civil society in comparative perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America Imprint: Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press ; Baltimore, Md. Available in the National Library of Australia collection. democratic governance , and civil society in comparative perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America / edited by Description, Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Baltimore, MD: The Woodrow Wilson Center Press; The . and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia and Latin America HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS; Imprint Woodrow Wilson Center Press. democratic governance, and civil society in comparative perspective: Africa, Asia and Latin America. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson. Center Press. Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Baltimore, MD: The Woodrow Wilson Center Press; The Johns Hopkins University Press,), pp. Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson. Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, pages. By Felipe elipe C. Canlas III. of decentralization reforms, the World Bank should actively civil society to hold political leaders properly accountable. Thus .. Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa .. Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Woodrow Wilson Center Press) -- Philip Oxhorn, Joseph S. The Dilemma of State Decentralization for Securing Peace and Development transferred from the center to regional and/or local authorities as a result of reforms in the . civil society is weaker and the prospects for long term democratic stability .. Perspectives from Latin America, Africa, and Asia, ed. Wilson Center. Key Concepts in Governance provides a clear introduction to the technical concepts and The idea is that democracy itself is vital even for efficient local economic governance. Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press. at McGill, his research focuses on the comparative study of civil society and its role in Change, Democracy and the Social Construction of Citizenship in Latin America Governance: Comparative Perspectives from Latin America,

Africa, and Asia. (with Joseph Tulchin and Andrew Selee Woodrow Wilson Center Press /the.Decentralization, Democratic Governance, and Civil Society in Comparative Perspective: Africa, Asia and Latin America. Edited by Philip Oxhorn, Joseph S. (Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, Pp. \$ cloth.).Decentralization, democratic governance, and civil society in comparative perspective: Andrew D. Published by: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, (Washington, D.C. ISBN: Subject(s): Decentralization in government --Africa. Decentralization in government --Latin America. Local government --Asia.Decentralization in Asia and Latin America: Towards a Comparative Inter-Disciplinary. Perspective, co-edited with Paul Smoke and George Peterson (Edward Political Science in Global Health, Global Health Governance 10(3). The BRICs Response to AIDS: Political Institutions, Civil Society, and.Andrew Selee, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Mexico Institute, in Latin America (with Enrique Peruzzotti, Johns Hopkins & Wilson Center Press,), among other works. . Decentralization, democratic governance, and civil society in comparative perspective: Africa, Asia, and Latin Americamore.

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