

WHAT CAUSES A STATE TO INTERNALLY DEMOCRATISE?

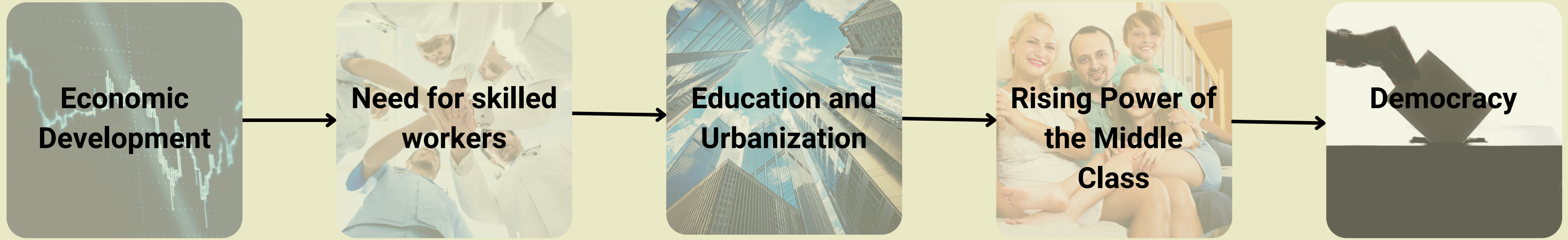


WANG, Tianyu
SARKAR, Manjori
PATRICK, Gerard Hanan



Modernization Theory

Our Motivation:
Does an educated middle class actually tend to prefer a democracy?
There are exceptions like China and Saudi Arabia.



"The more well-to-do a nation is, the greater the chances it will sustain democracy."

Seymour Martin Lipset

3 Waves of Democratization

01 Expansion of Suffrage

- 1850s – 1920s
- Europe and USA
- Expansion of right to vote for men, then women
- Ended with the rise of autocratic regimes in Europe

02 Decolonization

- 1945–1970s
- Imposition/Reimposition of Democracies at the end of WW2
- Anticolonial independence movements
- Held democratic founding elections, typically won by leaders of popular independence movements
- Some leaders changed laws and constitutions to remain in power

03 Fall of Communism

- 1989–1992
- Fall of the USSR
- Authoritarian regimes holding multiparty elections
- Competitive authoritarianism became common

(Coberly, 2021)

Factors that Influence Democratisation

Economic Development

Civil Society

Economic Development

Economic development (or modernization) theory proposes a positive correlation between economic development and democracy.⁵ According to this theory, economic prosperity indicated by wealth, industrialization, urbanization, and education promotes political democracy. **(Lee, 2002)**

Countries that transitioned to democracy between 1970 and 1990 and had an economic level equal to or higher than Argentina today have all managed to sustain democracy. However, for countries that transitioned below this economic level, democracy, on average, lasted only eight years. **(Devex, 2009)**

Economic development affects the growth of political democracy. Capitalist development plays a role by transforming the class structure, expanding the working and middle classes, enabling their self-organization, and making it harder for elites to exclude them from politics. **(Huber et. al, 1993)**

Civil Society

For some, civil society promotes popular participation, increasing political efficacy and skill of democratic citizens, along with structuring multiple channels for articulating, aggregating and representing interests to mitigate polarities in political conflict. **(Fioramonti, 2005)**

Voluntary associations function as schools of democracy and generate broader interest in society amongst its members, along with providing civic skills like giving speeches or writing petitions, increasing political participation. **(Lundåsen, 2015)**

Social inequality is a Primary Cause for Democratisation

SYSETH100vH HYPOTHESES

- High inequality --> political elites are more concerned about voters.
- Low, voters are less likely to demand significant redistribution of wealth.
- Regime change happens because of under-represented groups that are becoming economically stronger.

VARIABLES

Independent Variable

Social Inequality (In terms of Income) will be measured using the Gini Coefficients of states in their respective year of democratisation.

Dependent Variable

The Democratisation of State.

Control Variables

The Economic Developement of the state is to be controlled using the GDP Growth Data of states in their respective year of democratisation. Data is controlled at a high level as democratising countries should generally be striving for economic development.

Civil Society Strength is controlled using the Civil Society Participation Index, which is also controlled at a high level as civil society strength should be high when transitioning to a democracy.

Case Analysis

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Brazil	1986	7.54	59.7	0.74	Yes
Mexico	1997	7.2	53.3	0.60	Yes
Chile	1990	9.1	57.2	0.67	Yes
Egypt	2011	5.1	30.2	0.35	No (Electoral Autocracy)
Myanmar	2015	7	38.1	0.59	No (Electoral Autocracy)



- End of military rule (1964-1985).
- Civil society mobilisation for political reforms.
- Constitutional assembly and new constitution (1988).
- Free elections and strengthening of democratic institutions.

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Brazil	1986	7.54	59.7	0.74	Yes



MEXICO

- Political reforms and expanded civil liberties.
- Economic changes and growing middle class.
- Civil society activism for human rights and accountability.
- Electoral reforms and peaceful transfer of power in 2000.

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Mexico	1997	7.2	53.3	0.60	Yes



- Grassroots movements and opposition to the dictatorship
- Constitutional referendum rejecting Pinochet's continuation
- Constitutional reforms and reduction of military power
- Restoration of democratic institutions
- Ongoing efforts for democratic consolidation and addressing past legacies

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Chile	1990	9.1	57.2	0.67	Yes



Egypt

- Widespread protests demand political reforms and Mubarak's resignation in 2011.
- Tahrir Square becomes a symbol of the revolution and the epicenter of the uprising.
- President Mubarak steps down after weeks of sustained demonstrations.
- Transitional period under the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces begins, aiming to establish a new political system.

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Egypt	2011	5.1	30.2	0.35	No (Electoral Autocracy)



- First openly contested election since 1990
- Won by the National League for Democracy (NLD)
- Aung San Suu Kyi became the de facto head of government
- NLD nullified by the existing Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
- Military coup in 2021.

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Myanmar	2015	7	38.1	0.59	No (Electoral Autocracy)

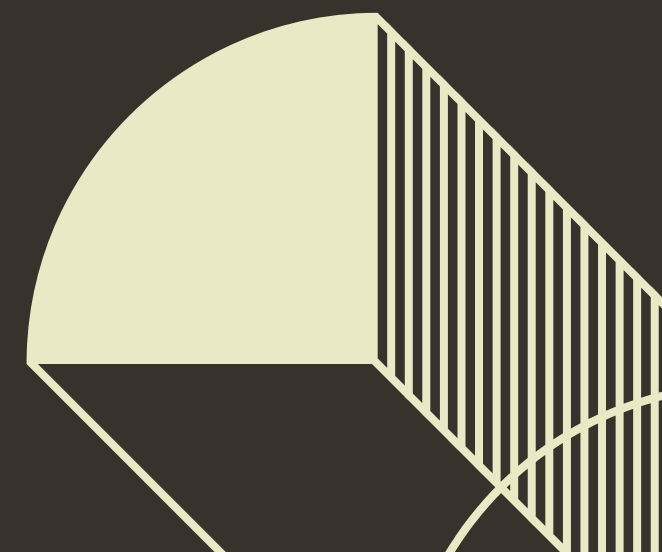
Case Analysis

	Year	GDP Growth (%)	Gini Coefficient	Civil Society Index	Democratised?
Brazil	1986	7.54	59.7	0.74	Yes
Mexico	1997	7.2	53.3	0.60	Yes
Chile	1990	9.1	57.2	0.67	Yes
Egypt	2011	5.1	30.2	0.35	No (Electoral Autocracy)
Myanmar	2015	7	38.1	0.59	No (Electoral Autocracy)

Conclusion



THANK
you



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Huber, E., Rueschemeyer, D., & Stephens, J. D. (1993). The impact of economic development on democracy. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 7(3), 71–86. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.7.3.71>

Fioramonti, L. (2005). Civil Societies and democratisation: Assumptions, dilemmas and the South African experience. *Social Science Research Network*. https://autopapers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2099103

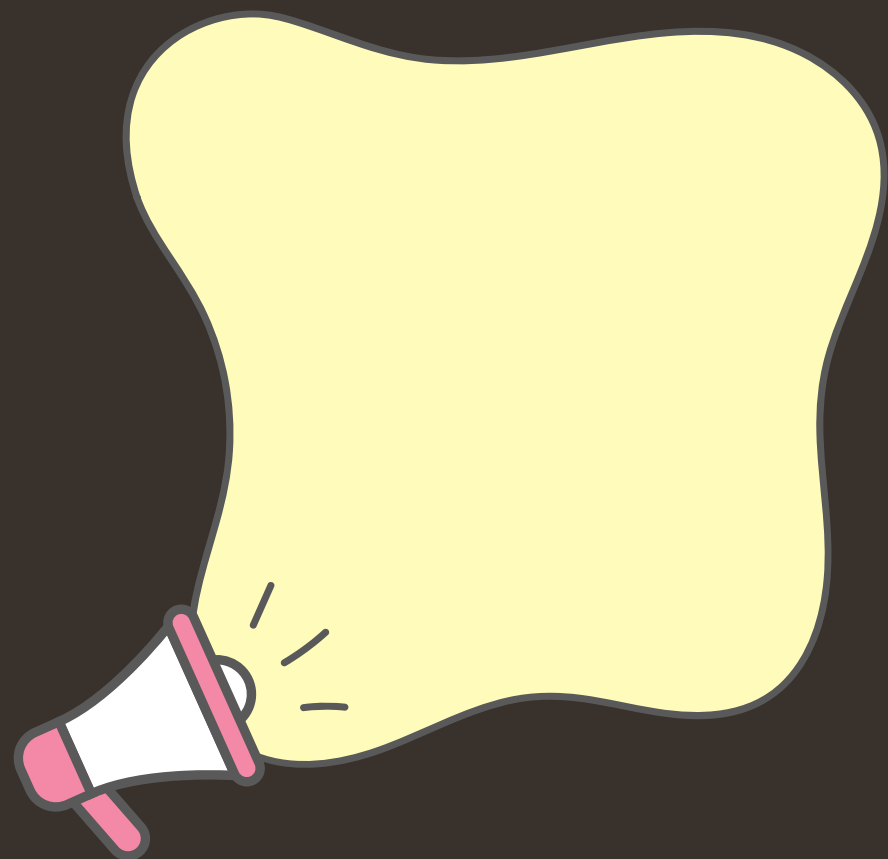
How development leads to democracy | devex. (n.d.). <https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/how-development-leads-to-democracy-59594>

Lee, J. (2002). Primary Causes of Asian Democratization: Dispelling Conventional myths. *Asian Survey*, 42(6), 821–837. <https://doi.org/10.1525/as.2002.42.6.821>

Carolyn Coberly. (2020, October 11). Three waves of democratization [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_aW_XnmaGNc

Lundåsen, S. W. (2014). Civil Society and Political Participation: What Type of Political Participation is Influenced by Community Level Involvement in Civil Society? *Schweizerische Zeitschrift Für Politikwissenschaft*, 21(1), 140–157. <https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12140>

ALL DATA SOURCED FROM “WORLD BANK” and “OUR WORLD IN DATA”.



Q&A

