

relatively stable regime, if a very unpleasant one: a repressive one-party state. Should the DRC at least try to become more like pre-war Syria, which worked in part, before it thinks about becoming Denmark, which works in full? Again, the proposition seems absurd. No one should wish the politics of Syria on any other nation. Nor would it be any easier to make the transition. Syrian politics is a product of its own particular history and geography. You can't get to Denmark via Syria.



Hobbes thought it was a bad idea to compare regime types because it breeds resentment and wishful thinking. People will want something better than what they've got, imagining that the grass is always greener. Yet once there is clear evidence that some regime types do work better than others, it is very hard not to compare and,