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Reaction Paper 1

The different types of authoritarian regimes are as follows: personalist, party, military, and monarchies. Democracy-Dictatorship is useful at classifying a regime but fails to take into account major events such as reshuffling of leaders, or internal conflict, for example, a change of executive leader from dictator to new dictator will have no effect on how the regime is classified. In some situations, some regimes may successfully meet three of the four criteria for democratization but will be classified as dictatorships. Democracy-Dictatorship index is binary and takes the minimalist approach, such that procedure and institutions determine whether a system of government is a democracy or a dictatorship (Cheibub Antonio Vreeland 2009 71).

In studies of democratization, the fate faced by the executive leader after the fall of the regime, potential internal conflict, and the number of institutions in place may lead to actions such as peacefully resigning, starting wars, or reshuffling of leaders, such actions increase or decrease the likelihood of democratization.

A personalist regime refers to a political system where power is concentrated on a single person.. A personalist is classified as a dictatorship in the Democracy-Dictatorship index. Generally chief executive gains power through a coup such as Central African Republic's Jean-Bédél Bokassa.

Party regimes distribute power to more than just one individual. In some instances the executive leader may serve as a figurehead, that must adhere to the demands of the party. Dominant party regimes may arise from populism. Mexico would be classified as a dictatorship while under the control of the PRI.

Generally, a military regime applies the structure of the armed forces and established them in the regime. Due to the possibility of armed conflict within the regime, such a regime is unstable and often leads to the forfeiture of power. (Geddes Frantz Wright 2014). The goal of a military regime is to preserve their institution, and seeking power is only done for the benefit of the military. Military regimes tend to favor democracy because their presence is not seen as a possible threat.

A monarchy main executive leadership is a royal family, that family that controls policy appoints leaders and is established through the bloodline. A monarchy stays in power by establishing connections by appointing family members to the position of power or marriage. Such a regime has established family committees for decision making. The Democracy-Dictatorship is valid due to the fact that a monarchy fails to meet any of the requirements for a democracy, such as an elected executive chief since the king is appointed by the royal family, the legislature is virtually nonexistent, no parties, and no alternation of power only reshuffling of a king within the royal family. The lack of independent institutions and strict rules to who is able to gain power makes a monarchy unlikely to transition to democracy, and the Democracy-Dictatorship index clearly indicates this.

In order to understand how authoritarian regimes influence democratization one must consider the aftermath of such regimes. A leader in a personalist regime is likely to face

severe punishment and is will, therefore, attempt to impede democratization. Leaders of dominant party regimes that transition to a new form of dictatorship will face consequence and is, therefore, incentives to avoid such transition. Militaries and monarchs find themselves facing evenly consequences in transitioning to democracy or a different form of dictatorship but may choose democracy, as leaders may be perceived to be a threat to new autocratic regimes (Geddes Wright Frantz 321 2014).

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