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The theories that describe how economic development influences democratization are modernization, survival, and variant of modernization. Modernization theory claims that economic development influences democratization by creating cultural change, an increase in political involvement, and education. Survival theory claims that with economic development a shift towards dictatorships puts rich voters and the middle class at risk of losing assets and this deters support for a dictatorship. Variant of modernization theory claims that if assets are fluid governments are not able to seize them, and thus undermining a regimes ability to control and distribute resources. . Modernization and survival theory claim that economic development helps countries sustain democracy, moreover, modernization goes further by claiming that economic development helps countries shift towards democracy. There is evidence that democracy and authoritarian regimes are dependent on economic development, but it is not clear whether economic development is the cause of shifts towards democracy(Teorell 2006) .

Modernization theory influences a shift towards democratization and maintains it. The article “The power of prosperity: economic determinants”, states that modernization ensures class struggle, intermediary organizations, political culture, and education. That a growing middle class keeps politics moderate. Economic development helps create a civil society, a society where the population holds the powerful accountable and therefore ensuring the survival

of democracy (Teorell 2010). Radical change and political revolution may be fatal to a possible transition to democracy and therefore political culture ensures opposing views are tolerated (Lipset 1994). In “The social requisites of democracy revisited” Lipset explains that when economic development is low, the need to allocate the available resources creates political corruption because the state is in charge of managing and distributing resources. Lipset argues that education political participation increases as with economic development. In table 3.4 Explaining the Modernization Effect we find that media proliferation is statistically significant and is, therefore, a strong indicator for modernization (Teorell 2010). Media proliferation helps maintain democracy and undermines transitions towards a dictatorship. Economic development indirectly influences the shift towards democracy by making voters richer and therefore willing to oppose their regime (Magaloni 2006). Mexico, as defined by the democracy-dictatorship index, was a dictatorship because the PRI had yet to transition its power, by supporting the opposition richer voters caused a transition of power.

Survival theory directly indirectly influences democracy by keeping the risks of shifting towards a dictatorship high for those who are economically well off. Survival theory states that economic development helps maintain democracy. From a cost-benefit approach, a person of high socioeconomic status would not advocate for shifting towards dictatorship as this may lead to being oppressed by the dictator. Power is shifted from a dictatorship to the people and therefore undermining the dictatorships ability to distribute resources to political elites, and therefore this creates internal conflict. There are three possible options for individuals living under a dictatorship those are exit, voice, and loyalty. Individuals may leave the country with their assets, they may protest, or accept the decisions of their government.

Variant of modernization theory claims that socioeconomic structure influences democracy and not income. A dictatorship maintains loyalty by distributing resources to those who support the regime. A shift from agricultural to industrial made assets more fluid, and out of the reach of dictators. As individuals are able to keep their assets they gain influence over their government. The government has the option to continue to levy taxes and punish its citizens however it risks potentially losing assets. The middle class holds most of the assets their political involvement holds governments accountable and this diminishes the government's ability to take control of their assets (Norris 2007).

Survival and modernization theory have the most empirical evidence, there is evidence that economic development maintains democracy and may also help shift regimes towards it. Mexico while under the control of PRI was composed of the poor. Survival theory claims that the poor have no incentive to maintain democracy, as shifting towards a dictatorship may or may not help their socioeconomic standing. The rich as was observed began to turn against the PRI even though the country had economic prosperity. It was noted that states the PRI lost ground in rich states (Magalon 2007). Rich voters shifted towards democracy as this would safeguard their assets. The poor voters remained loyal to the PRI, this is evidence of the survival theory. Empirical evidence for modernization theory can be found in the voters' reaction towards an economic crisis in Mexico, the loss of the PRI in 1982 crisis was 8% and increased dramatically in 1994 by 23%, this shows that economic development is necessary to maintain democracy.

Teorell, Jan. *Determinants of Democratization Explaining Regime Change in the World: 1972-2006*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.