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978-0-521-87319-2 - Driving Democracy: Do Power-Sharing Institutions Work?

Pippa Norris

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Driving Democracy

Do Power-Sharing Institutions Work?

Proposals for power-sharing constitutions remain controversial, as highlighted by contemporary debates in Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal, and Sudan. This book updates and refines the theory of consociationalism, taking account of the flood of contemporary innovations in power-sharing institutions that has occurred worldwide. The book classifies and compares four types of political institutions: the electoral system, parliamentary or presidential executives, unitary or federal states, and the structure and independence of the mass media. The study tests the potential advantages and disadvantages of each of these arrangements for democratic governance. Trends in democracy are analyzed for all countries worldwide since the early 1970s. Chapters are enriched by comparing detailed case studies. The mixed-method research design illuminates historical developments within particular nations and regions. The Conclusions draw together the practical lessons for policymakers.

Pippa Norris is the McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and she has recently served as Director, Democratic Governance, United Nations Development Programme. Her work compares elections and public opinion, gender politics, and political communications. Companion volumes by this author, also published by Cambridge University Press, include *A Virtuous Circle* (2000), *Digital Divide* (2001), *Democratic Phoenix* (2002), *Rising Tide* (2003), *Electoral Engineering* (2004), *Sacred and Secular* (2004), and *Radical Right* (2005).

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Also by Pippa Norris

Political Recruitment: Gender, Race and Class in the British Parliament,
with Joni Lovenduski (1995)

Passages to Power: Legislative Recruitment in Advanced Democracies
(1997)

A Virtuous Circle: Political Communications in Post-Industrial Democracies (2000)

Awarded the 2006 Doris Graber award by APSA's political communications section

Digital Divide: Civic Engagement, Information Poverty, and the Internet Worldwide (2001)

Democratic Phoenix: Reinventing Political Activism (2002)

Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change Around the World,
with Ronald Inglehart (2003)

Sacred and Secular: Politics and Religion Worldwide, with Ronald Inglehart (2004)

Awarded the 2005 Virginia A. Hodgkinson prize by the Independent Sector

Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior (2004)

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Preface and Acknowledgments

Worldwide more electoral democracies exist today than at any time in history. Almost half of all governments can be considered democratic, according to one of the most widely used comparisons developed by Freedom House. Nevertheless most of the surge in democratization occurred during the late-1980s and early-1990s, following the fall of the Berlin wall. During the early twenty-first century, global progress has stagnated and there are also signs of an incipient backlash in some parts of the world, threatening fragile gains. It is therefore time to look anew at the capacity of institutional reforms to facilitate sustainable democratic regimes and to generate lasting peace settlements in multiethnic states, especially those emerging from deep-rooted civil wars.

Social scientists and policymakers remain divided about whether constitutional reforms designed to share power can reduce political instability in states experiencing internal conflict, or whether these arrangements may prove counterproductive by unintentionally reinforcing ethnic hatred or even fueling a strong resurgence of intercommunal violence. Despite decades of heated debate, this issue remains unresolved. Cases of both apparent success and failure of power-sharing institutions can be quoted by proponents on both sides. To look afresh at these issues, this book uses global comparisons from 1972 to 2004 and 10 selected case studies to reexamine classic questions about the potential impact of political institutions in fostering sustainable democracy. Building upon ideas that consociational theory first developed many decades ago, the study analyzes a new body of systematic evidence for understanding how the process of democratization is strengthened by proportional electoral systems, federal and decentralized forms of government, parliamentary executives, and freedom of the press. The paired case studies illustrate the divergent historical pathways taken by democracies and autocracies with different institutions, even among neighboring countries sharing a broadly similar cultural history, social structure, and level of economic development. This analysis builds on my previous book *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior* (2004), which examined the role of electoral systems in explaining

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patterns of voting behavior and political representation. I hope that this study will contribute toward informing the debate about the role of power-sharing institutions, and their importance for reformers, in the contemporary world.

This book owes multiple debts to many friends and colleagues. The theme of the book received encouragement in many conversations over the years with colleagues in the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and in the Democratic Governance practice, United Nations Development Programme. The book expresses the personal views of the author, however, and it does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its Member States. I am also most grateful to all of those who went out of their way to provide feedback on initial ideas, or to read through draft chapters and provide detailed comments. The research also received generous financial support with grants received from the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the Kuwait Program Research Fund Middle East Initiative, and the Women and Public Policy Program, all at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard. The collaboration with Cambridge University Press has been invaluable, particularly the patience and continuous enthusiasm of the editor, Lew Bateman, as well as the comments and encouragement of the reviewers.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

This book is a comparative study of power-sharing institutions that analyzes the consequences for democracy worldwide. Driving Democracy. Specifications. Publisher. Cambridge University Press. Book Format. Paperback. Original Languages. Driving democracy " chapter 7. 9/15/2007 2:37 pm. and the type of constitutional rules governing the relationship between the national and sub-national tiers. Each of these categories can be further sub-divided according to the degree of decentralized governance, where fiscal, administrative, and political powers and functions are transferred to provincial and local levels. Find democracy drive stock images in HD and millions of other royalty-free stock photos, illustrations and vectors in the Shutterstock collection. Thousands of new, high-quality pictures added every day. 354 democracy drive stock photos, vectors, and illustrations are available royalty-free. See democracy drive stock video clips. of 4. Reston, USA - April 11, 2018: Town center building architecture, sidewalk street road during day, Democracy Drive in northern Virginia, information sign.