

Workshop

Democratic transitions in Europe and Latin America: what relevance for the Arab world?

Madrid, 24/25 March 2006

Venue: Hotel Vincci Soho. C/ Prado, 16-18.
Madrid.

Objectives

- ARI's remit includes the aim of exploring comparisons between the Arab world and other regions. It will be of significant value to those engaged in Arab reform to assess the similarities and differences with regards democratic transitions that have occurred in other parts of the world. This could help inform debates over very concrete issues of political reform strategies within Arab countries.
- ARI, FRIDE and Club de Madrid are organising this two day workshop in Madrid to explore the question of what lessons can be gleaned from previous democratic transitions for political reform in the Arab world.
- Experts and politician-practitioners involved in southern and eastern European, Latin American and other transitions will outline the challenges that related to a number of key strategic areas of reform. Commentary from Arab participants will aim at bringing out in systematic fashion the similarities and differences with the Arab world.
- Seven sessions over two days will cover:-
 - ◆ Pacted transitions and constitutional reform – how were broad coalitions between reformists and hardliners constructed?
 - ◆ Civil Society – how were civil society actors able to organise effective oppositional activity under conditions of authoritarianism and build broad-based reform movements?
 - ◆ Political Party Evolution – the process of political party adaptation to democratic norms.
 - ◆ Military reform – how were security forces brought under civilian control and what concerns remain in this area two decades after transition?
 - ◆ The Role of the Media – the conditions under which the media is able and chooses to adopt more autonomous coverage of political developments.

A final roundtable will draw together the discussions and explore points of relevance for international actors.

- ARI, FRIDE and Club de Madrid will produce a synthesis of the discussions as a working paper, with policy-oriented recommendations.

Programme

Friday, 24th March 2006

9.15 Welcome address by organisers

Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada and Secretary General, Club de Madrid
Bassma Kodmani, Director ARI
Richard Youngs, Coordinator of Democratisation programme, FRIDE

9.30-11.00 Session I. Lessons from the Spanish Transition

This session will look at the conditions that allowed the formation of reform-oriented pacts and coalitions; the role of the monarchy in the Spanish transition; the existence of obstacles to reform and their resolution; the economic and social bases that facilitated change at the political level and, finally, the significance of international influences.

Moderator: Sean Carroll, Director of Programmes, Club de Madrid.

Felipe González Márquez, Former Prime Minister of Spain.
Charles Powell, University of San Pablo-CEU, Spain

To lead the discussion: **Mustafa Hamarneh**, Centre of Strategic Studies, University of Jordan.

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Session II. Negotiating Pacted Transitions and Constitutional Reform

This session will focus on the key conditions in Latin America that facilitated the formation of pacts to guide democratic change; the concessions made to maintain pacts and the resulting (if any) limitations imposed on democratic transitions; the actors that were excluded from such coalitions and why; the formal constitutional changes that were made and their significance in Latin American transitions and the role of international influences.

Moderator: Mariano Aguirre, Co-director and Coordinator, Peace and Security Programme, FRIDE.

Manuel Antonio Garretón, Chile University.
Jorge Dominguez, Harvard University, United States.

To lead the discussion: **Yehya el Gamal**, Lawyer, Al Gamal Law Firm, Egypt.

13.00-14.30 Lunch
Olsen. C/ Prado, 15

15.00-16.30 Session III. Civil Society: Building Reform Movements

This session will touch on the conditions and changes that preceded civil society mobilisation in Latin America and Ukraine; the role of civil society and whether this has led to its overstatement; divisions between civil society actors and how these were overcome; the preference of civil society actors for or against mediated pacted transitions and the importance of international support for civil society organisations.

Moderator: Jack Duvall, President of the International Centre for Non-violent Conflict, Washington, United States.

Jorge Romano, Action Aid Americas, Brazil.
Oleksandr Bohomolov, Centre for Middle East Studies, Ukraine.

To lead the discussion: **Abdallah Saaf**, Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Morocco.

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-18.30 Session IV: Political Party Evolution

This session will look at the relationship between civil society movements and political parties in Mexico and Turkey; the sequencing of the reform momentum; the extent to which dominant parties retained support from anti-reform movements; the relationship between the business sector of civil society and political parties and the role of international party influences in changing identities and policies.

Moderator: Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada and Secretary General, Club de Madrid.

Manuel Canto, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana; Movimiento Ciudadano por la Democracia, México.

Murat Somer, Koç University, Turkey.

To lead the discussion: **Mounir Fakri Abdel Nour**, Wafd Party, Egypt

20.30 Optional Dinner
La Ancha. C/ Zorrilla, 7

Saturday, 25th March 2006

9.30-11.00 Session V. Democratising the Military

This session will focus on the significance of changing attitudes within militaries to democratic transitions in Latin America; the incentives provided to the military to accept democratic reform; the concessions made to militaries; the ways in which militaries internalised democratic norms in Latin America and problems associated with the militaries in the post-transition phase.

Moderator: Jorge Dominguez, Harvard University, United States.

Augusto Varas, Ford Foundation, Chile representative, Chile.
Rut Diamint, University Torcuato di Tella, Argentina.

To lead the discussion: **Hanna Elias**, Professor, Notre Dame University, Lebanon.

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Session VI. The Role of the Media

This session will touch upon the conditions that encouraged the media to speak out against governments prior to transition; the limits to the media's role in these transitions; the importance of the media's international linkages in explaining their role in democratic change; the relevance of changing professional standards within the media and the relationship between the media and civil society movements.

Moderator: Henry Siegman, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, United States.

Zoran Ostojic, B92, Serbia.
Miguel Angel Bastenier, *El País*, Spain.

To lead the discussion: **Ghassan Ben Jeddo**, Director, Al Jazeera Office, Lebanon.

13.00-15.00 Lunch

Vincci Soho Hotel. Cervantes and Prado rooms

Presentation by Sadig Al-Mahdi, former Prime Minister of Sudan; Member CdM

15.00-17.00 Concluding Roundtable. Assessing effective forms of engagement

Moderator: Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Former Prime Minister of Yemen; Member CdM.

Jiří Schneider, Programme Director, Prague Security Studies Institute, Czech Republic.
Abdel Monem Said, Director of al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt.
Ghassan Salamé, Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris, France.
Karen Fogg, European Commission, Brussels.