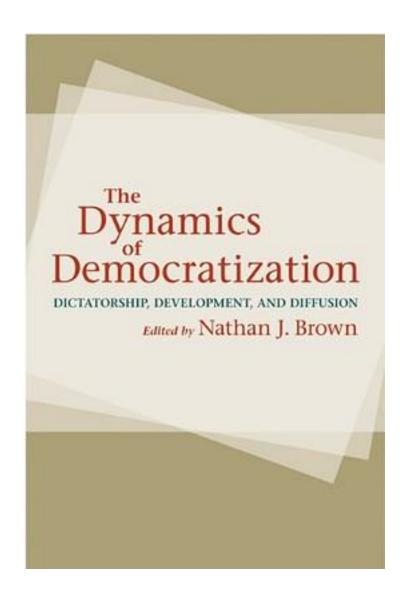
The Dynamics of Democratization



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One of the most significant developments in the last three decades of the 20th century was the fall of many authoritarian regimes and their replacement by governments claiming democratic credentials. Although the most spectacular instance of this was the collapse of communism, epitomized by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, it had occurred in a much wider range of countries--from Spain and Greece to Uruguay and South Korea. An important part in this has been played by political elites, which have sought to manage the process of regime change with a view to restabilizing their positions and limiting the disruption. However, the author argues that real democratization has been achieved only in these cases where the management of the transition process has not been left wholly in the hands of the elites but rather, has been supervised by elements from the broader civil society. The Dynamics of Democratization provides a clear and accessible overview of the scale, scope, and character of democratization in the contemporary world. The book offers important new theoretical insights into, as well as providing a wide range of detailed case studies of, transition from Latin America, Southern Europe, and the former communist world.

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