

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY IN POSTCOMMUNIST STATES

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ABSTRACT:

FOR COUNTRIES FRESH DECOMMUNIZED, DIFFICULTY WAS NOT FOUND IN THE FIRST STAGE, THAT OF INSTALLATION OF A DEMOCRATIC REGIME BUT IN THE STAGE OF DEMOCRACY CONSOLIDATION. MENTALITIES INHERITED FROM THE COMMUNIST REGIME WAS INTENDED TO BE REMOVED IN ORDER NOT TO FEEL THE NEW DEMOCRACY. WE COULD SAY THAT THE REMOVAL OF THESE LEGACIES THROUGH INDUCTION OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES WAS SUCCESSFUL BUT THAT WE CAN NOT SUSTAIN THAT GAVE RESULTS IN A SHORT PERIOD. IN THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED SUBMISSION OF OBLIGATORY STEPS FOR ANY STATE, TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY AND TRY TO SHOW HOW A STATE WITHOUT A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE REACHED CONSOLIDATED DEMOCRATIC REGIME.

KEYWORDS: DEMOCRATIZATION, DEMOCRACY, COMMUNISM, CONSOLIDATION

To raise the issue of strengthening democracy, it is necessary to refer to the three minimal[1] conditions that the democratic regime must meet: 1) the existence of a state; 2) going through the democratization; 3) governing the limits of democracy.

Firstly to discuss free and fair elections, about the protection offered to citizens by elected leaders and the exercise of power by them within the limits of democracy, we must emphasize the need for a state. Without it, all those listed above are unusable and democracy exist. In the second place to discuss democracy arrived at a *consolidated* level, we must keep in mind that democratic transit is over, and the six steps presented in the previous section have been followed and completed successfully. The end of the transition can be likened elections this stage not only proves to be sufficient to complete the process. Linz and Stepan tells us in the article. *The road to a consolidated democracy, that "in many cases they were free and competitive elections, the government resulting from elections also lacks both power >> << jure and the de facto >> << to determine policies in many significant areas as executive, legislature and judiciary are still decisively constrained by a gear composed of reserved fields << >>, << >> or << military powers authoritarian enclaves >> ".[2]*

Elections are central process in a democracy, and the question that must be asked is: *how to get voters to make the right decision?* Over time, the electoral surveys conducted

showed that *"political preference in most Western democracies was traditionally structured class, religion and other social divisions."*[3]

These divisions were possible due to lack of preparation encountered among voters so that they react in terms of a vote, as it was shown. Immediately after 1989, due to underdevelopment and lack of media[4] information sources, trade unions and churches have found that some of the main actors responsible for influencing both their members and the political elites.[5]

In the third and perhaps most important from our point of view is that the procedure may be considered democratically elected leaders only through the actions. Where the conditions imposed while the transition process and were brought to power through free and fair elections, leaders who were said to be Democrats, and they govern violating the rule of law, the regime can not be considered a democratic .[6]

We support are needed three minimum conditions that a State can begin the process of democratic consolidation and note that it does not stop here, revolving around the three conditions listed above. In their sequence are the tasks that need to be met, new conditions[7] that will be created, attitudes and behaviors that will be developed. In this case we ask what are the minimum requirements leading to a consolidated democracy? Linz and Stepan propose a definition of democratic[8] consolidation that combines three dimensions: behavioral, attitudinal and constitutional, so the consolidated democracy, they refer to *"apolitical regime where democracy as a complex system of institutions, rules and patterned stimulants and constraints became the only acceptable system"*.[9] Why is it necessary to combine the three dimensions? I'll try to detail, from the study of the two theorists. Say, from a behavioral standpoint, the regime is the only widely accepted option disappears when the possibility of a political group or a part of the elite to desire the overthrow of the democratic regime. Attitudinal[10] dimension considers the behavior of the population, if the state is going through a crisis (economic, political, etc), and refers only to the fact that in this case the necessary recovery measures that situation to be achieved without limits violated democratic . Constitutional democracy is treated as the only accepted treatment, and any political conflict is resolved without the rule of law to be violated[11].

We have the three dimensions we have described above, but they can be functional in all states undergoing democratization? The answer is NO because some states have developed a strong democratic culture. Basically, it offers emotional and cognitive support necessary for accession to democratic procedures. We'll try to describe a hypothetical situation in which democratic culture is imperative. First we must have in mind that every state, sooner or later face the least strong crisis, whether economic, political, etc. Based on the occurrence of this crisis[12], we want to emphasize that the existence of a democratic culture is necessary in an extreme situation where the state is.

Thus, *"during a crisis, the government enjoys public support continues to adhere to democratic procedures even when they are in critical circumstances."*[13]. Irrespective of the limit to which a state is, the government is required to be maintained in the area of democratic leadership.

Our scientific approach has in view democratization of post-communist states of Central and Eastern Europe, so the early 90s could not discuss a democratic culture among them. Various studies have shown a high level of support for democratic principles in the former Soviet Union and in other Eastern European countries a similar picture emerged: democratic norms have received the consent of the population. Dalton believes that it

would be raised a question mark on the sustainability of such a culture, from the depth of the answers given in these investigations. The possibility that these cultural norms represent only a temporary reaction set due in 1989 is quite high and that the show opened to the public - a large opening than expected - the novelty offered by the democratic regime is due only to the previous regime[14].

On this basis we tend to say that if the state went through stages of democratization (full democracy) to reach the establishment of a democratic but without a strong democratic culture developed, the system is doomed to failure. This may be true only where there is no attempt to create a democratic culture. How can this be achieved? Many researchers believe that this is possible on the basis of economic development[15]. *"One of the interpretations based on a large number of empirical evidence is that the market economy is a necessary and sufficient that we speak of a strong democratic culture".*[16] In our opinion but also to Robert Dahl, only a developed economy is not enough to create a democratic culture. China, for example, has one of the largest national economy in the world although it is an undemocratic state. Dahl, development and democratic culture study argues that this failure from various features of the market economy and advanced society appear to favor the development of a strong culture. Through traits means: stable legal system; considerable decentralization of economic decision; widespread use of information, persuasion, incentives and rewards; emergence of a middle class; free access to information.[17]

So far we have described the possibility of strengthening democracy in a state. I explained how the state is forced to turn to three dimensions for the building process to be initiated and the outcome is expected to be the need to create a democratic culture where it is lacking. Reaching when democracy was strengthened, it is justified to turn our thoughts to a possible collapse it. In an attempt to provide an answer, we concluded that those who may be responsible for the fall of the government or are some of them due to changing loyalties. I mean, in the context of an undemocratic alternative wins a large number of supporters, including a part of the original supporters of the democratic regime, the latter may be doomed.

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- [3]. Russell J. Dalton, *Community policies: micro behavioral perspective*, in Robert E. Goodin, Hans-Dieter Klingemann, *Manual of Political Science*, Polirom, Iasi, 2005, p. 306
- [4]. Access to a diverse media landscape allows the audience to become an active selection of information, not just a consumer of passive political messages provided by others. (Russell J. Dalton, *Community policies: micro behavioral perspective*, in Robert E. Goodin, Hans-Dieter Klingemann, *Manual of Political Science*, Polirom, Iasi, 2005, p. 307)
- [5]. Russell J. Dalton, *Op. Cit.*, p. 306
- [6]. See Juan linz, Alfred Stepan, *Op. Cit.*, p. 52
- [7]. When referring to new circumstances, I consider the five conditions developed Linz and Stepan: development of a free civil society; relatively autonomous political society; rule of law; state

- bureaucracy; institutionalized economic society. First, it must be present conditions to develop a free and vigorous civil societies. Secondly, there must be a relatively autonomous political society. Third, throughout the state, all major political actors, especially the government and state apparatus, must be effectively subjected to the rule of law that protects individual freedoms and associational life. Fourth, there must be a state bureaucracy, to the new democratic Government. Fifth, there must be an institutionalized economic society. (Juan Linz, *The road to a consolidated democracy*, p. 53)
- [8]. See Lise Rakner, Alina Rocha Menocal and Verena Fritz, *Democratisation's Third Wave and the Challenges of Democratic Deepening: Assessing International Democracy Assistance and Lessons Learned*, <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/241.pdf>, accessed 08/21/2014, at 3:11 PM.
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