

Does Someone Else's Industry Contribute to Democratization?

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In this letter, I argue that to have a democratic regime in a developing country should be preceded by a national industry. Industrialization that belongs to a nation creates a necessary public-political field that enables nations' citizens to pursue their economic as well as political rights. An exported industry from an industrialized country eliminates the opportunity for the working classes to perceive and pursue their political rights. Democratization as a concept for many students of political science as well as citizens of the world is often professed as an immediate increase in living standards, which often contributes to disappointment which may lead to authoritarian leadership.

In our contemporary global world-order, states constantly find themselves in complex inter- and intrarelations with other actors in the international arena. People of the world face new and increasingly more challenging dilemmas. The precarious conditions residents of developing countries find themselves in, do not accommodate national awareness to challenge hardships. The regional variance in the awareness to confront hardships by pursuing good governance and effective policies for individuals living in developing countries is quite large. We, the citizens of the world, must face the burdens of bearing high costs in the face of unpredictable global outcomes that seem to shift in matters of weeks and months. Today, these rapid and quick changing conditions and policies are blatantly broadcasted through social media channels impacting behavior and perceptions adversely. Such a fast-changing world may cause addictions such as clinging on to our hand-held devices with consequences such as lonesomeness and uncontrolled digital frenzy. Two such far-reaching global issues we had to confront head-on were obviously the COVID19 pandemic, which in recent times has clearly demonstrated our inability to cope with the implications of such predicaments. The other issue that I want to highlight is the global waves of immigration from non-developed or war-torn parts of the globe toward developed nations of the globe. It should make us appreciate the reliance on predictable schedules and understanding the high stakes in the common and shared values and systems, which for me roughly equates to a combination of democratic awareness and the necessity of an industrialized economy integrated in the global economic market.

The merits of democracies are obviously countless to discuss in this short letter. Scholars of political science know the effects of social-political gains of democratic awareness together with national ownership that are extensively deliberated in the last century as well as in modern research. However, I also must acknowledge my personal gratitude as I was lucky to witness the benefits of a democratic

society as a citizen. To be born in a democratic country and the rewards of realizing one's constitutional rights outweighs the disadvantages of living an unpredictable and idle life.

The reason I write this letter today has to do with a critical thought of line. The common conviction most of us share is that *Democracy* is usually treated as an absolute good when it comes to our social, political, and constitutional rights. Most nations around the world have shaped or negotiated their democracies to their own image convincing themselves that democracies bring nations immediate prolonged, sustainable welfare and higher standards of living. This, of course, is much more nuanced for political scientists who study the literature, but the point I criticize has to do with the order I just outlined. Let me explain further: for those nations living in non-developed parts of the world, there is dismay, disbelief and disappointment when it comes to democratic regimes. Most of the negative association may be due to associations with colonial memory, while others may be distinctly connected to proxy wars and interventions in certain areas. For the citizens of Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria or even some Eastern European countries, democracy and its inherent character do not always contribute, at least not directly, to a sustainable economy or prolonged economic prosperity. Even we, the educators, teach textbooks in which these ideas and schemes feed into such overzealous influences that are not in the best interest of students but also are not good for the true spirit of democracy.

In my honest opinion, the common image that there is a rational link between democratization and economic development afterwards is a false one! My first criticism involves the false belief that democracies are automatically inherent to sustainable economic policies. Sometimes economic policies set in motion may get altered every four years due to periodic elections, meaning that economic and financial liberalization pursued by one government might get interrupted by a new office elected. These interruptions, especially in developing countries, are hard to swallow by nations as it is part of our human nature to expect immediate improvements in the living-standards just by being a democratic regime. Let us remember the disappointments of Eastern European countries after the nineties of the last century. The disappointment, I believe, may eventually work against democratic principles such as equality, justice, and freedoms.

I criticize this specific order of belief and I argue that the industrialization process in today's most consolidated democracies had to precede their democratic endeavors. Both the process of industrialization as well as the process of democratization were not only domestic, but both of these two processes were necessary for nations to realize the full potential of modernization. In other words, both industrialization and democratization processes are equally important to create a climate of political and economic assurances by unionizing, and struggling (in the good sense) against domestic economic and political elites demanding and also fine-tuning their democratic rights. The presence of domestic industries in the Western world made the internal economic contrasts between the *arbeitsers* and industry owners only more explicit, strengthening new ideas such as equalities, freedoms and constitutional protections against any form of exploitation. During the last decades, we have created regional and multilateral development banks that have had little impact on democratization efforts in non-developed countries where industries are not nationally owned. Most of these industries were

externally transferred for reasons of cheap labor, and the people of non-developed countries being aware of losing their jobs, do not prioritize the opportunity to learn to resist and defend their rights against economic and, therefore, political elites. Scholars are sincerely aware that these industries are established by means of flown in capital into developing countries for their cheap labor. And we all know that these industries can just as easily fly away to the next best cheap-labor country.

I believe that new global challenges such as pandemics, financial crises, ecological disasters, environmental pollution as well as global warming all contribute to the aforementioned process of undemocratization creating a confusing dismay toward the idea of democracy. This may be the case, in the meantime millions of individuals live under grave inhumane circumstances, which is why waves of immigration take place in a time when humanity needs more democratization instead of disappointment in the idea of democracy. It is our task as academics, policymakers living in the wealthy parts of the world to stand up for the rights of those who seek salvation, employment and better living standards. Such an endeavor cannot be achieved by ignoring the economic and democratic needs of those who need it the most. Doing so, should however, not surprise us that nations eventually settle for long-lasting strong leaders instead of democratic systems and applied democratic values.

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