

Comparative Transitions to Democracy
Masaryk University in Brno

Unit IV. Restoring Democracies: The Post- WWII Democratising Experiences

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4.1 The World Wars and Democratisation

The WWI shocked the political pillars in Europe
marks the end of the long cycle of democracy
liberalisations into democratisations
popular sovereignty
extension to excluded “minorities”
1 nation – 1 state

however, limited success
reverse wave 1920-1939
weak democratic governments
lack of support among citizens
socio-economic problems
maps and conflicts

Liberal democracies not the only alternative

3 models

liberal democratic

old model

evolution

fascist state

corporatist state

mobilising

ideology

communist state

no social classes

egalitarian

By 1939, it was not clear which of these models was to impose

WWII solved the dilemma

Fascism is defeated

and eradicated

Liberal democracies and Socialist states

dividing areas of influence

iron curtain

4.2 Transitions of the Second Wave: Characteristics

Very different from first wave

- very much related with the international environment

 - cannot be separated from their international circumstances

 - WWII central to understand them

 - led by foreigners

 - involvement of International Organisations

- transitions that have a different point of destination

 - democracy, political rights

 - equality, social rights

 - a new form of understanding democracy

- transitions exported beyond the “West”

 - democratisation in different parts of the world

 - developmental theories

Centrality of human rights and human dignity

consequence of WWII

separation of powers

balancing institutional design

cautious use of plebiscites and direct dem.

division centre-periphery

Extension of social rights

political rights

basic civil freedoms and liberties

extension of social rights

education

health care

work

house

trade unions

strike

4.3 Transitions of the Second Wave: Models

Two different types

Restoration of democracy in countries that had it before 1939
defeated in the war

Germany

Italy

Japan

Austria

new constitutional models

France

Greece

Denmark

Mostly European countries that have already experienced democracy
before

relatively easy transition

Countries that acquired independence after WWII
decolonisation

India

Pakistan

Indonesia

Libya

Nigeria

Cameroon

Ivory Coast

Chad

Ghana

...

most of them celebrating democratic elections first
falling into authoritarian rules
civil wars

4.4 Restoring Democracy in Europe: Germany and Italy

Two countries “defeated” in the WWII

Germany, the initiator of the war

Italy, changing sides

Two transitions in which the external tutoring is clear

Germany, direct

real occupation

“foreign” constitution

Italy, indirect

external guidance

Two models that are democratic

understanding the existence of a democratic culture

regenerating the democratic structures

WWII, military defeat of Germany
occupation and new political regime
de-nazification

Nuremberg processes

elite

a political-criminal process

22 accused

12 death sentences

lustration

Exonerated, or non-incriminated pers

Followers

Less incriminated

Activists or Incriminated Persons

Major Offenders

Strong in the US and Soviet Sector

remove those involved from positions of
responsibility

Recreation of new structures

Municipalities-Districts-Regions-State

tensions East-West, division of Germany

West Germany, 1948 London, bases of the new regime were created

65 member German Parliamentary Council

Constitutional draft

Western military authorities

Regions approve

1949 C. effective

1952 occupation finished

1955 International recognition

German Federalism

tradition of autonomy

but imposed by allies

Diversified

but successful

Centrality of Human Rights

art.1 'dignity of man is untouchable and to respect and protect it is the duty of all public power'

Reaction to nazism

state must protect HR (majority)

no referendum

no people popular initiative

The case of Italy is different

1943 Allied troops invade the south of Italy

Internal revolt finish with fascism

Marshall Pietro Badoglio led govmt.

Committees of National Liberation

Transition implied negotiation between

official govmt./parallel authorities

Main conflict was monarchy

Old King Victor Manuel III resigned

son Humbert II temporary king

1946 Elections for Constitutional Assembly and Referendum for
monarchy (54.3% against)

Constitution drafted in 1947 by Italian members of the parliament

Constitution with deep social contents

social rights (work, trade union, strike, land,...)

welfare state (education, housing, health, support to families)

Defence of Human Rights

reaction to fascist regime

right of asylum

4.5 Creating Democracy Beyond the West: Pakistan and Cameroon

Pakistan and Cameroon are two typical examples of what happen after the WWII with the attempts to create democratic regimes

Countries under colonial rule

- not real democracy

- exposed to democracy and “democratic” government

Pakistan

- receives independence from British rule in 1947

- Elections in 1946, Constitutional Assembly

- Muslim population

- Determination of boundaries with India

 - war in 1947

 - instability, riots

- Military take over in 1958