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Democratization in the Third World

Concrete Cases in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective

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Preface

This is the second edition of a book first published under the same title in early 1996 by the Seminar for Development Studies, Uppsala University. It brings together edited versions of 12 original contributions presented in the context of a Scandinavian researcher course organized by the Seminar in Uppsala, Sweden, on 2–7 May 1994. The theme had been formulated as *Democratization in the third world: Empowerment, decentralization, and popular organization*. The course addressed current issues of development, democratization and civil society in a number of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America against the background of theoretical introductions and comparisons with the Swedish historical experience of democratization. A newly written introductory chapter brings out the issues and explains the plan of the book.

In preparing this second edition, we left out two of the contributions included in the first (see notes 17 and 18 in the Introduction). We also did some further editing and partial rewriting. This was basically for reasons of space and overall coherence. The original structure and meaning of the book remains intact and, we think, even clarified by this slimming and editing operation.

The thirteen authors contributing to the second edition come from seven different countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Through patient discussion and close editing we have achieved a joint publication. Each one of the individual authors is of course responsible for the essentials of her or his own text. Still, as usual in these cases, the overall responsibility for the final outcome remains with the editors.

We see our book as an important outcome of the ongoing efforts of the Seminar for Development Studies at Uppsala University to study, discuss and teach about democratization. Our hope is that it will be useful to students and colleagues around the world.

Sincere thanks are due to many different people and institutions, among others the following.

We think first, of course, of all the contributing authors whose work we are presenting and who responded gently to all our various proposals for editing. Without them, there would be no book.

We think also of Maria Pedro Abad, who carefully read all the proofs; of Maria von Rosen, who constructed the diagram on p. 190

and provided essential final retouches on the computer, and of Adam Kahsai-Rudebeck, who did the important final work on the index for the second edition of the book. Their efforts, willingly offered, were decisive in preparing the texts for printing.

The *Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi* (NorFA, Nordic Academy for Researcher Training) in Oslo, Norway, provided the generous grant which made it possible for us to organize the original researcher course at the pleasant premises of Eklundshof Conference Centre in Uppsala, in the beautiful month of May 1994, and to have some forty-five students and researchers spend a most fruitful week together. That support, obviously, was indispensable to the entire project, including this book.

The *Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation* (SAREC, until 1995 an independent agency, now a division within the overall Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida) and Uppsala University jointly support the ongoing work of the Seminar for Development Studies. Such support, too, is indispensable to the interdisciplinary work we try to carry on in the field of politics and development and of which our book, we hope, is a good example.

We are now adding a sincere expression of our high appreciation of Macmillan's positive interest in our work and the easy cooperation we have had with them and Anne Rafique Editorial Services in making this second edition possible.

Virgilio Rojas, Lars Rudebeck, Olle Törnquist
Uppsala, 1998

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