

Forum Executive Director Christopher Walker (right) and Wall Street Journal Editorial Board Member Matthew Kaminski (left) in conversation with an event attendee before a panel discussion on "The Arab Spring and the Color Revolutions."



forum

International Forum for Democratic Studies

The International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy is a leading center for research, discussion, thought, and analysis on the theory and practice of democracy around the world. Established in 1994, the Forum strives to bridge the gap between academic research and the practice of democracy through several initiatives:

- Publishing the *Journal of Democracy*, the leading academic journal on democratization.
- Organizing research initiatives, conferences, and roundtables to explore critical themes for democratic development.
- Hosting fellowship programs for international democracy activists, journalists, and scholars.
- Conducting the “Democracy Ideas” interview series with leading thinkers on democracy who share their insights on topics such as the ways in which democracy can work more effectively, the challenges of democratic transition, and the growing authoritarian pushback against democratic development.
- Coordinating the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI), a global think tank network.

The Forum also supports and enhances the Endowment’s grants program and the World Movement for Democracy.

The International Forum for Democratic Studies is directed by Christopher Walker. Marc F. Plattner and Larry Diamond serve as cochairs of the Forum’s International Research Council and coedit the *Journal of Democracy*. The Forum’s programs benefit from the advice



The Forum held numerous panels and discussions throughout the year.

and involvement of a Research Council consisting of scholars and other specialists on democracy from around the world.

Research and Conferences Program

Forum research and analysis focuses on issues of democratic transition and consolidation as well as on the common challenges facing both new and established democracies. Each year the Forum convenes meetings ranging from international conferences to smaller seminars, lectures, and colloquia in Washington, D.C. In the past year the Forum organized a series of roundtables on the theme “Reconsidering Democratic Transitions;” cosponsored a series of public events on “The Role of Economics in Democratic Transitions” with the Legatum Institute, *Democracy Lab*, and *World Affairs*; and held numerous panels, briefings, and book launch events.

Network of Democracy Research Institutes

The Forum coordinates the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI), an international network of think tanks that study democracy, democratization, and related topics in comparative politics and international affairs. At the close of 2013, the Network consisted of 83 members, including independent institutions, university-based study centers, and research programs affiliated with other organizations. The Forum publishes *Democracy Research News*, an electronic newsletter that highlights new publications and

conferences sponsored by Network members, and regularly distributes articles and reports on democracy to members through its Worth Reading series. Profiles of member institutions, links to their Web sites, issues of *Democracy Research News*, and other information on the Network of Democracy Research Institutes are available at www.ndri.ned.org.

The Forum also serves as the secretariat for the Comparative Democratization section of the American Political Science Association, for which it publishes an electronic newsletter, maintains a website, and helps to promote collaboration among U.S.-based and foreign democracy scholars.

Roundtable Series: Reconsidering Democratic Transitions

In late 2012, the Forum initiated a roundtable series on “Reconsidering Democratic Transitions: The Arab Spring and the Color Revolutions” that examined case studies of countries that have experienced democratic ferment and openings of varying degrees in post-Soviet Eurasia (Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine) and North Africa (Tunisia, Egypt, Libya). These six country-specific sessions were supplemented by two regional overview sessions.

In September 2013, the Forum organized a half-day conference to summarize the findings of the eight roundtables. The first panel, “The Arab



Ashraf Ghani, Chair of the Transition Commission in Afghanistan, spoke on “The Role of Economics in Democratic Transitions.”

Spring and the Color Revolutions” featured Alexander Cooley, Barnard College; Nadia Diuk, NED; Matthew Kaminski, *Wall Street Journal*; and Laith Kubba, NED. The second panel, “Revisiting the Transition Paradigm,” featured Larry Diamond, Stanford University; Francis Fukuyama, Stanford University; and Donald Horowitz, Duke University. An edited transcript of the second panel appeared in the January 2014 *Journal of Democracy*.

Lecture Series: The Role of Economics in Democratic Transitions

In 2013 and early 2014, the Forum, the Legatum Institute, World Affairs, ForeignPolicy.com, and *Democracy Lab* organized a series of lectures and papers on “The Role of Economics in Democratic Transitions.” The first lecture, held in January 2013, featured Ashraf Ghani (Institute for State Effectiveness), who provided a general overview of the relationship between economics and

democratic transitions. In June, a case study on Tunisia featuring Mondher Ben Ayed (TMI) was held, followed by an October lecture on Kenya delivered by Carole Kariuki (Kenya Private Sector Alliance). Finally, in January 2014, Burma was examined, with a lecture delivered by Gwen Robinson (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok).

Tenth Annual Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in the World

Donald L. Horowitz, James B. Duke Professor of Law and Political Science Emeritus, Duke University, delivered the tenth annual Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in the World at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on November 7. His topic was “Ethnic Power-Sharing and Democracy: Three Big Problems.”

“Russia: A Postmodern Dictatorship?”

In October, the Forum, the Legatum Institute, and the Institute of Modern Russia sponsored a

panel discussion entitled “Russia: A Postmodern Dictatorship?” featuring Pavel Khodorkovsky, Institute of Modern Russia; Peter Pomerantsev, journalist, producer, and author; Vladimir V. Kara-Murza, Republican Party of Russia-People’s Freedom Party; and Christopher Walker, NED. Carl Gershman, NED, provided opening remarks and Christian Caryl, *Democracy Lab*, moderated the discussion. A paper with the same title, written by Peter Pomerantsev, was published by the Legatum Institute and the Institute of Modern Russia.

Democracy Think Tanks in Actions

In June, the Forum, the Center for International Private Enterprise, Atlas Corps, and NED’s Middle East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean programs cosponsored a discussion on “Democracy Think Tanks in Action: Translating Research into Policy in Young and Emerging Democracies.” The event marked the culmination of a multi-year project and a publication with the same title that examined how think tanks influence policy, policymakers, and public opinion. The panel included two members of the Forum’s Network of Democracy Research Institutes, Orazio Bellettini Cedeño (Grupo Faro, Ecuador) and Sami Atallah (Lebanese Center for Policy Studies), along with Maksim Karliuk (Belarusian Institute for Security Studies) and Sally Roshdy (One World Foundation, Egypt).

The Arab Spring after Two Years

In February, the Forum sponsored a half-day conference on “The Arab Spring after Two Years: Prospects for Democracy in the Gulf States.” The first panel “The Future of Reform in the Gulf,” featured Tamara Cofman Wittes, Brookings Institution; Jean-Francois Seznec, Georgetown University; Jafar Alshayeb, Qatif Municipal Council, Saudi Arabia; and Laith Kubba, NED. The second panel, “The Crisis in Bahrain: Is a

Negotiated Solution Possible?,” included Stephen McInerney, Project on Middle East Democracy; Tom Malinowski, Human Rights Watch; Khalil Al-Marzoq, Al-Wefaq Political Society; and Jalila Al-Salman, Teachers’ Union in Bahrain. Congressman James McGovern and Carl Gershman, NED, provided opening remarks.

The Forum also held a series of colloquia on a diverse range of topics, including:

- “Georgia After Presidential Elections: Is a Consolidated Democracy in Reach?” Martha Beard, NED, and Cory Welt, the George Washington University, cosponsored by and held at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at The George Washington University (Oct. 29).
- “Putin vs. Civil Society:” Leon Aron, American Enterprise Institute; Mirian Lansky, NED; and Robert Orttung, The George Washington University, cosponsored with the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at The George Washington University (Sept. 30).
- “Democracy and Reconciliation in Kyrgyzstan: A Case for the Mobilization of Youth:” Nadira Eshmatova, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Maria Lisitsyna, Open Society Justice Initiative (July 11).
- “Can Democracy Work for Women in Burma?” Nang Lao Liang Won (Tay Tay), Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Brian Joseph, NED (June 27).
- “Strengthening Youth Participation in Nigeria:” Abdulrazaq Alkali, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Dave Peterson, NED (June 26).
- “Civil Society and the Quest for Democracy in Uganda: Threats and Opportunities:” Frank



In October, the Forum presented a panel discussion on “Russia: A Postmodern Dictatorship?”

Rusa Nyakaana, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Eric Robinson, NED (June 12).

- “Using Technology to Promote Good Governance and Economic Transparency in West Africa:” Kwami Ahiabenu, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Larry Diamond, Stanford University (May 30).
- “Transparency and the Struggle for Accountability in Mexico:” Irma Sandoval-Ballesteros, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Eric Hershberg, American University (May 9).
- “Understanding the Struggle for Power and the Democratization Process in Bahrain:” Matar Ebrahim Matar, International Forum for Democratic Studies, with comments by Sarah Chayes, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (April 25).
- “Ukraine: Democracy in Danger?” The Honorable Martin Frost, NED; Serhiy Kudelia, Baylor University; Steven Pifer, Brookings Institution; and Nadia Diuk, NED (April 9).
- “Working with Sharks: A Pakistani Woman’s Story of Countering Sexual Harassment at the United Nations:” Fouzia Saeed, Mehargarh, with comments by Jerry McClelland, University of Minnesota (April 2).
- “The Devil in History: Communism, Fascism, and Some Lessons of the Twentieth Century:” Vladimir Tismaneanu, University of Maryland, with comments by Michael Allen, NED (Feb. 27).
- “Enemies of the State: Pussy Riot and the New Russian Protest Rock:” Artem Troitsky, Moscow State University, cosponsored with and held at The George Washington University (Feb. 19).
- “China at the Tipping Point:” Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University; Louisa Greve, NED; Maochun Yu, U.S. Naval Academy (Feb. 7).