

# The International Forum for Democratic Studies

The International Forum for Democratic Studies was established as a division within the Endowment in April 1994. Since then the Forum has emerged as a leading center for analyzing and discussing the theory and practice of democratic development and as a clearinghouse for information on groups and institutions working to achieve and maintain democracy around the world. Through its publications, conferences, and academic networking, the Forum also supports and enhances the Endowment's grants program and the World Movement for Democracy.

The Forum's activities, many of which are funded by private contributions, involve and benefit scholars, policy makers, and activists representing diverse experiences and views. The Forum has initiated four interrelated programs:

- **A Research and Conferences Program** that, through a combination of international conferences,

smaller meetings, and occasional publications, analyzes the practical and theoretical aspects of democracy and democratization;

- **A Democracy Resource Center**, consisting of a library and archives on democracy, a website, and several online databases;

- **The publication of the *Journal of Democracy***, a quarterly journal published for the Endowment by the Johns Hopkins University Press, along with a series of *Journal of Democracy* books; and
- **A Fellowship Program**, comprising the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program and a small Visiting Fellows Program, that enables democracy activists, scholars, and journalists from around the world to spend time in residence at the Forum.

The International Forum for Democratic Studies is directed by Marc F. Plattner, who also coedits the *Journal of Democracy* with Larry Diamond. The Forum's programs benefit from the advice and involvement of a Research Council consisting of scholars and other specialists on democracy from around the world.

## Research and Conferences Program

Forum research 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 the past year a great deal of attention was devoted to the impact of poverty and inequality on democratic stability, consolidation, and quality.

### Network of Democracy Research Institutes

As part of the Research and Conferences Program, the Forum serves as the sec-

retariat to the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI), an international association of research centers that study democracy, democratization, and related topics in comparative politics and international affairs. At the close of 2008 the NDRI consisted of 76 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 NDRI members, and regularly distributes articles and reports on democracy to members through its

Worth Reading program. Profiles of member institutions, links to their websites, issues of *Democracy Research News*, and other information about the Network of Democracy Research Institutes are available at [www.wmd.org/ndri/ndri.html](http://www.wmd.org/ndri/ndri.html).

In 2008, the United Nations Democracy Fund awarded the Forum a prestigious two-year grant to support several of the Network's activities, including funding to 1) conduct the Fifth Washington Workshop for Think Tank Managers; 2) convene a scholarly conference on social policy and democracy, to be held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in April 2009; 3) digitize NDRI publications;



**Ann Bernstein discusses “Democracy and Development in South Africa: Passing the Torch from Mbeki to Zuma?”**

and 4) publish an annual edition of the *Journal of Democracy* in Spanish in association with the Instituto de Ciencia Política of the Pontificia Católica University of Chile.

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.

### Conference: “Pakistan: Advancing Democracy and Security”

In May the Forum and NED’s South and Southeast Asia program sponsored a day-long conference on “Pakistan: Advancing Democracy and Security,” with a keynote address by Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte. Panel topics included political parties and democratic institutions; security, terrorism, and democracy; regionalism and the structure of the state; and civil society and the media. Panelists from Pakistan included Khurram Dastgir, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz); Rukhsana Zuberi, Pakistan Peoples Party; Jami Chandio, Center for Peace and Civil



**Panel discussion of *Journal of Democracy* event on “Islamist Parties and Democracy.” Pictured, from left to right, Laith Kubba, Tamara Cofman Wittes, Marc F. Plattner, Hillel Fradkin**

Society; Mazhar Abbas, Pakistan Federation of Journalists; and Zafarullah Khan, Centre for Civic Education Pakistan.

### Discussion: “Islamist Parties and Democracy”

In July the Forum sponsored a panel discussion on “Islamist Parties and Democracy,” featuring presentations by Hillel Fradkin, senior fellow, Hudson Institute; Amr Hamzawy, senior associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Laith Kubba, senior director for the Middle East and North Africa, National Endowment for Democracy; and Tamara Cofman Wittes, senior fellow and director of the Project on Middle East Democracy and Development, Brookings Institution. Marc F. Plattner moderated the proceedings. The symposium was based on a cluster of articles that appeared under the same title in the July 2008 *Journal of Democracy*.

### Book Launch and Panel Discussion: “The State of Democracy in Latin America”

In September, the Forum sponsored a panel discussion on “The State of Democracy in Latin America” to celebrate the publication of *Latin America’s Struggle for*

*Democracy*, a *Journal of Democracy* book edited by Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Diego Abente Brun. In addition to the editors, volume contributors Cynthia McClintock, professor of political science at George Washington University, and Arturo Valenzuela, professor of government and director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University, offered remarks. Ecuadorian political sociologist Carlos de la Torre served as a discussant.

### Book Launch and Panel Discussion: “Public Opinion and Democracy”

In November, the Forum sponsored a panel discussion on “Public Opinion and Democracy: What Africans, Asians, and Arabs Think” to celebrate the publication of *How People View Democracy*, a *Journal of Democracy* book edited by Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner. Featured speakers included Yun-han Chu, director of the Asian Barometer; Andrew Nathan, Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science at Columbia University; Mark Tessler, director of the Arab Barometer; and Larry Diamond, who represented the Afrobarometer. Marc F. Plattner moderated the event.

## The International Forum for Democratic Studies colloquium series included the following speakers and topics in the past year:

### **“Putin’s Campaign against Chechen Society”**

Usam Baysaev, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Miriam Lansky, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“Political Resistance to Economic Reform in Nepal: Conflict and Consequences for Democracy”**

Prem Khanal, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Brian Joseph, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“Prospects for Iraqi National Reconciliation: Searching for a Plan”**

Mustafa Safwat Rashid Sidqi, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Michael Rubin, American Enterprise Institute

### **“Regional Options for Peace in the Great Lakes: The Case of Uganda’s Lord’s Resistance Army”**

Angelo Izama, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Howard Wolpe, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

### **“Consolidating Democracy in Asia: Is a Civilizational Consensus Required?”**

Roland Rich, United Nations Democracy Fund, with comments by Satu Limaye, East-West Center

### **“Protest and Repression in Armenia: The 2008 Presidential Elections and Their Aftermath”**

Anahit Bayandour, Armenian National Committee of the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, with comments by Miriam Lansky, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“Liberalization and Authoritarianism in Contemporary China: From the Growth of Grassroots Liberty to Nationalist Furor over Tibet”**

Kate Zhou, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Louisa Greve, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“The End of Colorado Rule: Will Paraguay Crumble or Flourish?”**

Diego Abente, International Forum for Democratic Studies, and Miguel Carter, American University, with comments by Frank Mora, National War College

### **“Why Play by the Rules? Constitutionalism and Democracy in Ecuador and Uruguay”**

Susan Alberts, Visiting Fellow, with comments by Diego Abente, International Forum for Democratic Studies

### **“State-Building versus Democracy in Georgia: Origins and Outcomes of the Rose Revolution”**

Giorgi Areshidze, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Miriam Lansky, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“The Missing British Dream? A Fractured Democracy Faces Muslim Discontent”**

Tom Gallagher, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Robert S. Leiken, Nixon Center

### **“Towards Police Reform in Nigeria: The Role of Civil Society”**

Okechukwu Nwanguma, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Oge Okoye, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“Torture, Justice, and Democracy: Myths and Misconceptions”**

Alice Verghese, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and Allen Keller, Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture

### **“A New Liberia: Educating for Democracy as a Way of Life”**

Eddie Jarwolo, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Dave Peterson, National Endowment for Democracy

### **“Economic Aid to the DPRK: the Human Rights Dimension”**

David Hawk, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Marcus Noland, Peterson Institute for International Economics, and Nicolas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute

### **“Why Is Pakistan Not a Democracy?”**

S. Akbar Zaidi, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Stephen P. Cohen, Brookings Institution

### **“Democracy and Development in South Africa: Passing the Torch from Mbeki to Zuma?”**

Ann Bernstein, Center for Development and Enterprise

### **“Promoting Democracy in the Arab World: New Ideas for U.S. Policy”**

Atef Al-Saadawy, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Michele Dunne, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Larry Diamond.

# Democracy Resource Center

The **Democracy Resource Center (DRC)** collects, organizes, and disseminates information and analysis produced by and about a wide range of groups and organizations working to strengthen democracy abroad. The DRC seeks to facilitate a genuinely multidirectional flow of information and ideas among developed and developing democracies, grant providers and recipients, and scholars and practitioners.

The DRC has two main components. The first is a library and an archive that hold approximately 25,000 works, collected from NED grantees and other sources, that can be searched via an online catalog. The second consists of online resources and databases on the NED website. The DRC also supports the Secretariat of the World Movement for Democracy, which is housed at NED, through the maintenance of the World Movement's databases and online resources ([www.wmd.org](http://www.wmd.org)).

**Library and Archives.** The library and archives house a collection of more than 25,000 books, plus numerous journals, grantee reports, audio and video cassettes,

and other publications on democracy; a unique collection of materials produced by pro-democracy groups worldwide; documentation on the history of the Endowment and programs it has funded; and informa-



tion on the activities of other democracy groups and organizations. These resources have been entered into an online catalog that is accessible through the Internet.

**The NED Website.** The Endowment's website ([www.ned.org](http://www.ned.org)) provides access to a wealth of resources, such as detailed information on the Endowment's programs

and activities; full-text access to newsletters, speeches, and conference reports; research guides and links to other resources on democracy; guides to funding and fellowship programs that focus on democratic development; and information on the Forum's Fellowship Programs.

Internet resources created and maintained by the DRC include:

- **Democracy Projects Database.** This online database contains information on some 12,000 projects supported by the National Endowment for Democracy since 1990, in addition to projects funded by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (Great Britain), Rights & Democracy (Canada), Fondation Jean Jaurès (France), International Liberal Centre (Sweden), and Alfred Mozer Foundation (the Netherlands).
- **Sources of Funding in International Democratic Development Database.** This database contains information on more than 100 philanthropic organizations that provide funding for groups working in the area of international democratic development. In addition, the database has been expanded to include awards and fellowship opportunities.
- **Democracy Research Guide.** This guide is broken down into three components: Textual Resources; Organizations, Institutions, and Networks that create these resources; and a Research Tutorial for developing a strong research methodology.

