

In Honor of Arend Lijphart

With the advent of the Arab Spring and the Burmese saffron democratic opening, Third Wave democratization is clearly out of recession and on the march again. The strenuous confrontation between the Islamic and liberal political forces over the nature of a democratic polity in Egypt, and the sectarian clashes in the immense minority regions of Myanmar, highlight an aspect of democratic change on which the literature of democratization has begun to dwell, namely, the patterns of democracy that may be emerging in newly democratized or democratizing polities. The literature on democratization initially focused on preconditions and processes of democratic transition, and, subsequently, on the prospects of democratic consolidation under various economic conditions and institutional arrangements (parliamentary vs. presidential vs. semipresidential forms of government and various types of electoral systems); more recently, attention has been paid to the quality of democracy as well. But democracies, be they newly created or long-established, come in many shapes and forms—not merely with different institutional configurations—and also with diverse modes of operation that are informed by discrete norms and unique cultural understandings of how ideal politics should be anchored. Democracy may be a universal value, but the modality of practicing it may be distinct. Are there varieties of democracy as there are varieties of capitalism?¹

Professor Arend Lijphart has been a pioneer in the studies of varieties of democracy for the past four decades. At the turn of the 1970s, he advanced an influential consociational model of democracy, and subsequently compared, in a very systematic and comprehensive manner, majoritarian democracy and consensual democracy. At a time when studies of democracy were focused on individual voters, electoral participation, zero-sum contestation, and power rotation among political parties under the condition of polyarchy, as well as on power play and maintenance under a minimum winning coalition, Professor Lijphart presciently called our attention to various power-sharing arrangements, non-zero-sum types of interaction among political forces, and a “kinder and gentler” way of organizing democratic politics. He also has led the charge in exploring varieties of electoral and party systems. Professor Lijphart, a former president of the American Political Science Association, indeed, has been shaping research agenda for students of democracy and democratization. In the 1990s, Taiwan’s political science community had the honor of hosting

¹ The varieties of capitalism, or VOC, literature can be traced back to Andrew Shonfield’s studies of modern capitalism, Chalmers Johnson’s studies of East Asian developmental states, and Peter Katzenstein’s studies of small and open economies in Western Europe, but the literature came into full blossom upon the publication of Peter Hall and David Soskice’s work in 2001.

Professor Lijphart's visit and lectures in Taipei. When the *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*, the English-language journal published by the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, was launched in 2005, it had the blessing, advice, and support of Professor Lijphart. This year, the Foundation is celebrating its tenth anniversary. It is fitting, indeed, a great honor, to celebrate this anniversary by publishing a special issue of the Journal, centering on Professor Lijphart's monumental works on patterns (or varieties, or models) of democracy. For this purpose, we have invited a number of scholars to revisit various models of democracy or to reflect on the impact of Professor Lijphart's power-sharing analytical schema on realpolitik in different parts of the world, especially those with divided societies. Papers were presented and rigorously examined in a Los Angeles workshop in early 2013, and sent to Professor Lijphart. We are truly indebted to the authors of the papers for their contributions to this special Journal issue, and especially for their faithful "interfacing" with the consociational model. We are particularly grateful to Professor Lijphart who so graciously agreed to write an introduction to this special issue, reminiscing on the developmental pattern of his academic projects, and reflecting on the astonishing saga of his intellectual pursuits and social science discoveries.

For the past ten years, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, the first of its kind in Asia, has been pleased to make contributions in a variety of ways to the cause of democracy and to the studies of democracy and democratization. The Foundation has steadfastly participated in the Community of Democracies, the World Movement for Democracy, and the Parliamentary Forum for Democracy, hosted the Assembly for Democracy in Asia, sponsored a significant number of scholars to conduct field research in Taiwan, and conferred awards on Asia-based leaders for promoting democracy and human rights. It also has collaborated with major research institutions in Europe, North America, Southeast Asia, and Latin America in sponsoring academic conferences that examine democratization and democracy in various parts of the world. In celebrating its tenth anniversary, the Foundation takes utmost pleasure in publishing a special issue of the Journal in honor of Professor Arend Lijphart.

T. J. Cheng, Editor
Taiwan Journal of Democracy

Teh-fu Huang, President
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy