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Haynes, Jeffrey (Ed.). Routledge Handbook of Democratization. London and New York: Routledge, 2012.

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Jeffrey Haynes' edited volume, *The Routledge Handbook of Democratization*, following a growing interest in transitions from authoritarian to democratic forms of government, seeks to provide a global overview of the process of democratization. Offering a selection of articles by leading scholars from a wide range of perspectives, this reference work provides a new, in-depth survey of contemporary democracy studies. The text offers a chapter by chapter discussion, taking examples from national and regional levels and analyzing the interaction between the domestic and the international. The book examines external factors that affect the progression of countries from authoritarian to democratic rule and discusses the roles of religion, economic development, and financial resources in that progression.

The handbook provides a detailed and comprehensive overview of modern approaches to democratization studies. Twenty nine experts in the field worked together to produce this volume, which is designed to contrast the processes and outcomes of democratic reform in a wide range of different societies. The text evaluates democratic processes and the influence of the politics, economic strength, and identity of a country. It also examines a combination of historic and socio-political factors that affect democratization. The handbook traces a number of historical developments relevant to the contemporary context while also looking at recent phenomena.

The book is thematically organized, and the articles are divided into four sections, each of which has been selected to present various aspects of the contemporary context, and each section consists of a collection of articles that together form chapters offering a complimentary overview of relevant sub-topics or issues. Each section describes and gives an account of the history, culture, politics, society, geography, and economies involved. Section I provides a regional examination of the current state of democratization and democracy in eight regions around the world. Section II examines key structures, processes, and outcomes of democratization and democracy. Section III focuses on the relationship between democratization and international relations through examination of a range of issues and actors including the third and fourth waves of democracy, political conditionality, the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, and the Organization of African States. Section IV examines the interaction between democratization and development, with a focus on poverty and inequality, security, human rights, gender, war, and conflict resolution.

In the first section, a distinguished set of scholars provide an overview of democracy today in the regions of the world. This section includes the historical aspects of contemporary democracies and explores the influences upon each region, making it easier to situate historical developments as well as later theoretical expositions in a local or regional setting. In the second section, a number of aspects of democracy are presented through the discussion of nine sub-topics: democratization and governance, democratic transitions, democratization and inclusion, hybrid regimes: a social foundations approach, deviant democracies, the military, political parties, civil society, and social capital.

The third section of the text presents a political overview of democratization in international relations. The first two articles in this section are historically situated and introduce the reader to aspects of international relations that have shaped the contemporary international domain. What follows is an adequate explanation of the historical and cultural developments of democratic unions among nation states, thus allowing the reader to critically assess the historical issues that play into the political dimension of democratization on an international level. This section is composed of six chapters that consider the third and fourth waves of democracy, democratic conditionality, the United Nations and democratization, the

European Union and democratization, the African Union and democratization, and the Organization of American States and democratization. The fourth section discusses democratization and development. Within this section, there are essays devoted to democratization, poverty, and inequality as well as analyses of democratization and security and the impact of democratization on human rights. Democratization and gender is also discussed. Democratization and its relationship to war and conflict resolution are discussed in the final two articles.

Presenting diverse and often competing views on all aspects of democratization, this handbook will be an essential tool for students and scholars of political science, government studies, comparative politics, and culture and society. Overall, *The Routledge Handbook of Democratization* offers the reader a good handbook that serves as a reference for scholars interested in democracy and the process of democratization. Its separation into different research domains with case studies of specific aspects within those domains works very well to offer the reader a simple guide to follow, with quality information easy to find. The text will serve students from different backgrounds as well as help researchers with case studies within a variety of sub-disciplines.

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