

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, liberal democracy remained the only ideal model of a political regime applicable worldwide. Then, various students and politicians saw the end of communism as the final and definitive victory of democratic ideology and imagined a future in which democracy would spread everywhere. Democracy spread widely during the 1990s and the early 2000s. The fall of various South American dictatorships and the European Union enlargement caused a transition to democracy in many countries. However, important areas in Eurasia, in particular Russia, China and Iran, resisted democratization and reformed authoritarian regimes rose and consolidated in the region. These regimes proved their ability to survive and influenced their neighbours proposing political models that attracted neighbouring countries' leaders. Thus, new kinds of authoritarian regimes challenged the idea of the unavailability of the spread of democracy. Today, the international economic crisis and wide economic growth in authoritarian countries such as Russia and China have renewed the relevance of questions about the democratic model's superiority, its unavoidable diffusion and the existence of alternative regimes. To answer this question we need to understand if at least one of these regimes is a model. Furthermore, we may discover if it is based on well-defined values, is replicable elsewhere, economically sustainable and able to consolidate and survive.

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Elena Baracani
Roberto Di Quirico
Alternatives to Democracy
Non-Democratic Regimes and the Limits to Democracy Diffusion in Eurasia



by Elena Baracani and
Roberto Di Quirico (eds.)

Contributors

- Elena Baracani** is Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Bologna, Department of Political and Social Sciences,
- Nelli Babayan** is a Post-doctoral researcher at the Freie Universität Berlin.
- Marc Botenga** is senior policy officer at Third World Health Aid and teaches international affairs at the Brussels Institute for Marxist Studies.
- Francesca Congiu** is Post-Doc Research Fellow in Asian Politics at the Department of Social Sciences and Institutions at the University of Cagliari.
- Adele Del Sordi** is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Private University of Applied Sciences (PFH) in Göttingen, Germany.
- Roberto Di Quirico** is Lecturer in Political Science at the Department of Social Sciences and Institutions of the University of Cagliari.
- Barbara Onnis** is Lecturer in History and International Politics of Asia at the Department of Social Sciences and Institutions of the University of Cagliari.
- Laura Petrone** was research fellow at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and at the Higher School of Economics of Moscow.
- Paola Rivetti** is Lecturer of Politics and International Relations at the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University.
- Barbara Romani** is a PhD candidate at the School of International Studies (SIS) of the University of Trento in Italy.

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