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The **International Forum for Democratic Studies** at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a leading center for analysis and discussion of the theory and practice of democracy around the world.

“Political scientists who study democratic development too often have worked far apart from those trying to promote democracy on the ground. Fortunately, the International Forum for Democratic Studies has succeeded in bridging the gap between theory and practice.”

— **Anne Applebaum**, *Washington Post* Columnist and Director, Transitions Forum, Legatum Institute

COVER TOP: Nadia Diuk, Alexander Cooley, Matthew Kaminski, and Laith Kubba participate in a panel discussion, “Reconsidering Democratic Transitions: The Arab Spring and the Color Revolutions,” moderated by Christopher Walker.

COVER BOTTOM: Women in Java, Indonesia queue with their voting slips on election day. Photo Credit: Chris Stowers/Panos Pictures (2004).

At a time when understanding what helps or hinders democratic progress around the world is more critical than ever, the International Forum for Democratic Studies is uniquely positioned at the nexus of democratic scholarship and activism to address these complex issues.

The Forum complements NED’s core mission—assisting civil society groups abroad in their efforts to foster and strengthen democracy—by linking the

academic community with activists from across the globe. Through its activities, the Forum responds to challenges facing countries around the world by analyzing opportunities for democratic transition, reform, and consolidation.

The Forum pursues its goals through several interrelated initiatives: publishing the *Journal of Democracy*, the world’s leading publication on the theory and practice of democracy; hosting fellowship programs for international democracy activists, journalists, and scholars; coordinating a global network of think tanks; and undertaking a diverse range of analytical initiatives to explore critical themes relating to democratic development.



Christopher Walker (center) is the Executive Director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies.



Fostering debate and discussion

The Forum provides a space where prominent thinkers convene to reflect on global trends and discuss the most important issues affecting the spread and consolidation of democracy around the world.

TOP: *Journal of Democracy* contributors discuss their articles at a Forum panel, “Ukraine: The Maidan and Beyond.” **BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Minxin Pei, Marc F. Plattner, Louisa Greve, and Andrew J. Nathan

share analysis from the *Journal of Democracy* book, *Will China Democratize?*; Moisés Naim is interviewed by Christopher Walker for “Democracy Ideas”; Michele Dunne speaks at a Forum roundtable.

Public Conferences and Expert Roundtables

Through a combination of public events and smaller roundtable meetings, the Forum brings together leading experts with the goal of gaining insights into critical issues relating to the practical and theoretical aspects of democracy and democratization.

From exploring ways in which democracy can work more effectively to examining the challenges of democratic transitions, these events aim to shed light on emerging challenges and identify opportunities where governments, opposition leaders, civil society, and the community of democratic states can support democratic development. Given the growing authoritarian pushback against democracy, understanding the increasingly sophisticated repressive methods of authoritarian regimes represents another crucial area of study.

“Think Democracy”

The Forum contributes to ongoing debates on democracy by sharing new research and analysis from its network of democracy scholars through its digital platforms.

The Forum’s “Democracy Ideas” online interview series features discussions with renowned experts, such as Anne Applebaum, Larry Diamond, Francis Fukuyama, Moisés Naim, Marc F. Plattner, Lilia Shevtsova, and others. *Journal of Democracy* podcasts enable authors to explain their analysis and elaborate on the arguments made in their published work.

Social media users stay up to date with the Forum by watching event videos and interviews on NED’s YouTube channel, and participating in the conversation by following the Forum on Facebook and Twitter.

Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture on Democracy in the World

For over a decade, the Seymour Martin Lipset Lecture series has brought distinguished intellectuals to Washington, DC, and Toronto, Canada, as part of a one-of-a-kind lecture program to explore key issues related to democracy and its progress around the world.

parties, voting behavior, extremist movements, and public opinion constitutes one of the most prolific, insightful, and widely read bodies of work on democracy ever produced by a single author. Past lecturers have included Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Francis Fukuyama, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Ivan Krastev, Lilia Shevtsova, and Alfred Stepan. The subjects of the lectures, which are published as essays in the *Journal of Democracy*, have covered a range of issues from the implications of the Arab Spring to the resurgence of authoritarianism in Russia.

Donald L. Horowitz presents the Tenth Annual Lipset Lecture, “Ethnic Power-Sharing and Democracy: Three Big Problems,” at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC.



The lecture series is named for one of the great democratic scholars and public intellectuals of the twentieth century. Seymour Martin Lipset’s scholarship on such themes as the conditions for democracy, political

Lipset was also one of the most important comparative analysts of the two great democracies of North America, and a strong advocate for US-Canadian cooperation. In this spirit, the annual event is co-sponsored by the Embassy of Canada, the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, and other partners who wish to contribute to Seymour Martin Lipset’s intellectual legacy.



Producing innovative analysis

Drawing on a diverse range of voices, Forum publications reflect a unique perspective that brings together the knowledge and experience of both academic experts and activists from around the world to study the factors shaping the future prospects for democracy.

TOP: (LEFT TO RIGHT) Marc F. Plattner, *Journal of Democracy* coeditor, with editorial staff Hilary Collins, Brent Kallmer, Tracy Brown, and Philip Costopoulos.

BOTTOM ROW: Books from the *Journal of Democracy* series; Larry Diamond, *Journal of Democracy* coeditor (Photo courtesy of Stanford University); *Journal of Democracy* publications.

Journal of Democracy

The *Journal of Democracy* is the world's leading publication on the theory and practice of democracy. Since its first appearance in 1990, it has engaged both activists and intellectuals in critical discussions of the problems and prospects of democracy around the globe. Today, the *Journal* is at the center of debate on the major social, political, and cultural challenges that confront emerging and established democracies alike.

The *Journal's* quarterly issues feature articles covering every region of the world, as well as reviews of important books on democracy, election reports, excerpts from speeches and documents by leading democrats and dissidents, and news about prodemocracy groups around the world. Marc F. Plattner and Larry Diamond are coeditors of the *Journal of Democracy*.

Books and Reports

The *Journal of Democracy* book series provides in-depth exploration of important topics by publishing thematic collections of articles. Over the years, the Forum has produced 30 books on a wide range of issues. Several of the books are broad anthologies, such as *Democracy: A Reader* (2009) and *Debates on Democratization* (2010). Others explore current topics that are shaping how democracy evolves, such as *Liberation Technology: Social Media and the Struggle for Democracy* (2012), and *Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy* (2012). Still others focus on a particular region or country, including *Will China Democratize?* (2013) and *Democratization and Authoritarianism in the Arab World* (2014).

The Forum periodically produces conference reports to disseminate analysis and key findings from its roundtable discussion series and other projects.

“The *Journal of Democracy* has become the premier destination both for academic specialists on democracy and for practitioners trying to secure basic human rights and build democratic institutions. It is here where all of the most important ideas start.”

— Francis Fukuyama, *Journal of Democracy* Editorial Board Member

The *Journal of Democracy* celebrates its **25th** anniversary in **2015**.



Connecting the global democracy community

Linked to an extensive global network of scholars and democracy practitioners, the Forum promotes the exchange of ideas to foster learning and encourage a sense of international solidarity among democratic thinkers and activists.

TOP: Ekaterine Popkhadze, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow (Georgia). BOTTOM ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Myo Aung Htwe (Burma)

and Matar E. Matar (Bahrain); Reagan-Fascell fellows and staff at Georgetown University; Jitman Basnet (Nepal) and Marc F. Plattner.

Fellowship Programs

In the spirit of international exchange, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program supports democratic activists, scholars, and journalists from around the world to conduct independent research, build individual capacity, and exchange ideas to strengthen democratic development in their countries, regions, or fields of expertise.

Fellows spend five months in residence at the Forum in Washington, DC, where they pursue projects that explore the economic, political, social, legal, or cultural aspects of democracy. Fellows participate in an active calendar of events, network

with counterparts, and share their perspectives through roundtables, presentations, and publications.

Named in honor of two of NED's principal founders, former president Ronald Reagan and the late congressman Dante Fascell, the program has hosted more than 200 fellows from over 80 countries.

The Forum occasionally welcomes scholars and practitioners with outside support as Visiting Fellows. In addition, the Forum partners with the World Movement for Democracy to host young democracy activists through the Hurford Youth Fellows Program and other collaborative initiatives.

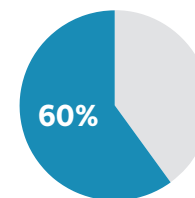
“In the Reagan-Fascell Program you are not alone—you are part of a community of fellows.”

— Roukaya Kasenally (Mauritius), Director of Programs and Knowledge Management, African Media Initiative

Support for Democrats at Risk

In response to the authoritarian backlash against civil society around the world, the Reagan-Fascell Program provides specialized support to individuals facing political persecution on account of their democracy activism, journalism, or scholarship. The Forum offers these “democrats at risk” a restorative environment in which to pursue their work and assists them in identifying opportunities for professional leadership and personal renewal. As a result of this support, these individuals are able to adapt to

their circumstances and are better equipped to move forward in their struggle for democracy and human rights in their countries of origin.



Percentage of world population living in systems where fundamental rights remain under threat.

Source: Freedom House data (2014)



Fellowship Program Senior Director Sally Blair and Normando Hernandez (Cuba).

Global Think Tank Network

Coordinated by the Forum, the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI) is a global network of more than 80 think tanks that focuses on democracy, democratization, and related topics in comparative government and international affairs.

The network fosters interaction among international think tanks, democracy scholars, and activists in order to analyze challenges to democracy. It also strives to determine factors that contribute to democratic consolidation, to promote policy discussions, and to disseminate major scholarship on democracy.

The collaborative space created by the NDRI allows think tanks from diverse parts of the world to initiate joint projects. The NDRI promotes the sharing of ideas and information among members by organizing international workshops on key democracy issues, by sharing new research produced by member institutes through a regular electronic newsletter, and by integrating network members into other Forum activities. The NDRI is a key network of the World Movement for Democracy.



Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow Delphine Djiraibe (Chad) gives a presentation on her fellowship project.

Academic Engagement

The Forum connects with the academic community by serving as the Secretariat for the American Political Science Association's Comparative Democratization section (APSA-CD). This network of scholars promotes analysis of the origins, processes, and outcomes of democratization around the world.



Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow AKM Nasim (Bangladesh) with NED President Carl Gershman.

Research Council

The Forum Research Council is a group of distinguished scholars and specialists known for their outstanding work and expertise on democracy and democratization. The Council includes experts specializing in particular regions and countries, as well as scholars who study broader, comparative issues. Research Council Members represent a wide range of theoretical and intellectual perspectives, reflecting the diversity in the field of democracy studies. The Forum draws upon Research Council Members to provide intellectual input on research topics, participate in Forum roundtables and conferences, contribute articles to Forum publications, and build collaborative organizational partnerships.

International Forum for Democratic Studies Research Council

Marc F. Plattner
Larry Diamond
Co-Chairs

Christopher Walker
Executive Director

Research Council Members

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“NDRI is a unique think tank network that helps the world’s leading democracy entrepreneurs advance the quality of democracy.”

— Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Director, European Research Center for Anti-Corruption and State-Building, Hertie School of Governance