



Democratic Transitions

Conversations with World Leaders

An International IDEA initiative, and the first volume in any language to focus on lessons from political leaders about promoting and managing transitions to democracy, *Democratic Transitions: Conversations with World Leaders* sheds fascinating light on how repressive regimes were ended and democracy took hold.

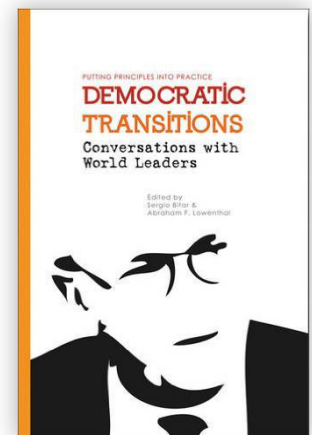
In probing conversations, national leaders who played key roles in transitions to democratic governance reveal how these were accomplished in Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa and Spain. Editors Sergio Bitar and Abraham F. Lowenthal focus on each leader's principal challenges and goals as well as their strategies to end authoritarian rule and construct democratic governance. Leaders interviewed include:

- Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil);
- Patricio Aylwin and Ricardo Lagos (Chile);
- Felipe González (Spain);
- Fidel V. Ramos (the Philippines);
- John Kufuor and Jerry Rawlings (Ghana);
- B. J. Habibie (Indonesia);
- Ernesto Zedillo (Mexico);
- Aleksander Kwasniewski and Tadeusz Mazowiecki (Poland); and
- F. W. de Klerk and Thabo Mbeki (South Africa)

Context-setting introductions by country experts highlight each nation's unique experience as well as recurrent challenges all transitions faced. A chapter by Georgina Waylen analyses the underestimated role of women leaders. A foreword by Tunisia's former president, Mohamed Moncef Marzouki, underlines the book's relevance in North Africa, West Asia and beyond.

The editors' conclusion distills lessons about how democratic transitions have been and can be carried out in a changing world, emphasizing the importance of political leadership. This unique book should be valuable for political leaders, civil society activists, journalists, scholars, and all who want to support democratic transitions.

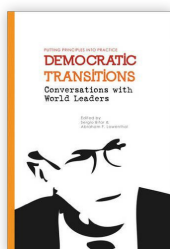
Sergio Bitar, president of Chile's Foundation for Democracy, is a political leader and public intellectual. **Abraham F. Lowenthal**, professor emeritus of the University of Southern California, was the founding director of the Inter-American Dialogue and the Wilson Center's Latin American Program.



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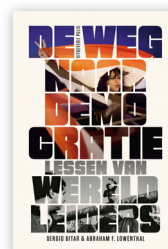
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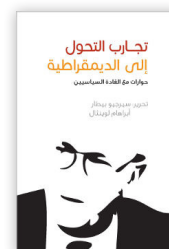
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Myanmar
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Praise for *Democratic Transitions*

Conversations with World Leaders

“*Democratic Transitions* accomplishes a remarkable feat, providing a readable and engaging history of the Third Wave of democratization for general readers and students, while filling in countless important details that specialists will appreciate. The lessons the editors draw from the unique individuals they interviewed provide critical guidelines for future political leaders and for those who want to help build democracies.”
— Francis Fukuyama, Stanford University

“The pragmatic wisdom and unique outlook of the experienced political leaders interviewed in *Democratic Transitions* are critical to the global dialogue on building open, democratic, and sustainable societies. The lessons of their failures and successes can help others to overcome tenacious global challenges, and support democratic transitions of political power.”
— Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and founder and chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation for better global governance

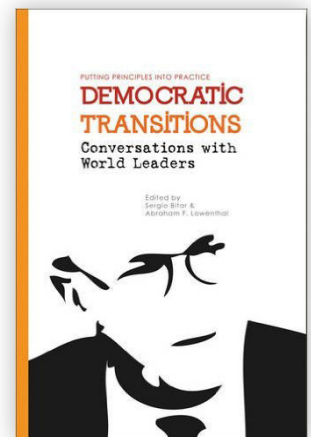
“What makes countries become successful democracies? There is much theoretical literature on the topic, but this book is different and special. It answers the question through interviews with the key players in some of the most important transitions to democracy in recent decades. The result is a fascinating empirical exploration of a vital issue, rich with detail and insights.”
— Fareed Zakaria, CNN

“No one is more qualified to provide lessons about how dictatorships have been ended, and democracies constructed in their place, than the political leaders who have actually shaped successful transitions over the past 3 decades. This timely and valuable book shares the experiences, reflections and political learning of 13 such leaders from around the world. It is a ‘must-read’ for anyone who wants to understand the complex processes of democratic transitions or to participate in them effectively.”
— Moises Naim, Distinguished Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Contributing Editor, *Atlantic* and *El Pais*

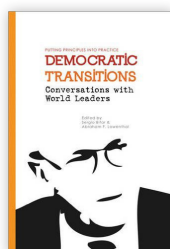
“This book provides impressive insights on how political leaders helped their countries navigate from dictatorships toward democracy. A must-read for future transitions.”
— Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile

“It is a sobering truth that most attempts at democratic transition fail, with disappointment and reversal their unhappy lot. Sergio Bitar and Abraham Lowenthal refuse to take this as a counsel of despair, however. Instead, they see it as all the more reason to study the cases of democratization that did work, in hopes of learning how they beat the odds and managed to implant government by consent and the rule of law in places where these had been absent and indeed denied.”
— Alfred Stepan, *Journal of Democracy*, January 2016

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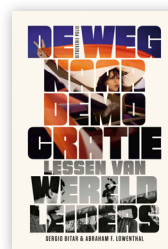
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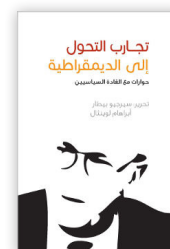
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