

A select digest of debates and scholarship on governance and peacebuilding



Global Trends in Governance: Turning the Tide from Authoritarianism to Democracy

Authoritarianism is on the rise, growing in both fledgling and established democracies around the world. Myanmar and Sudan have fallen back into military rule while the United States, one of the oldest democracies in the world, is experiencing a strong authoritarian movement within government and across society at large. While these trends were present before the pandemic, the effects of COVID-19 have greatly exacerbated the issue as economic hardships are drawing populations to support authoritarian candidates and systems of governance that promise a stable way of life in exchange for reduced political and social freedoms. Despite this disconcerting trend, popular protests around the world have given reasons to hope for a democratic future. Protests against authoritarian advancements in Sudan, Turkey, and Tunisia demonstrate the resolve that people around the world have for freedom and self-determination. Conflict Dynamics' role in assisting governments and populations in building peaceful and democratic societies means that our work is as important as ever before. This is why the theme of the November and December edition of the Peace Pulse is, *Global Trends in Governance: Turning the Tide from Authoritarianism to Democracy*.

In this edition of the Peace Pulse, you will find a variety of articles that examine the rise of authoritarianism in different countries as well as ways in which governments and civil society can counteract these trends. The '2021 Global State of Democracy Report' by the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) provides an in-depth analysis of democratic backsliding and authoritarian tactics in countries around the world over the last decade. In a video, 'Turning the Authoritarian Tide through Civic Education', the International Foundation for Electoral Systems assembled a panel discussion focused on tactics aimed at countering authoritarianism and strengthening democracy both at home and abroad. Additionally, Oxford Analytica provides a cautiously optimistic report on the authoritarian movement in Africa, predicting a rise in political and civic protests in response to weakening authoritarian governments in countries like Nigeria and Kenya. A common theme within many of these readings highlights a crucial trend that Conflict Dynamics has experienced in the contexts that we work: good governance, democracy, and sustainable peace are deeply interconnected. We are eager to continue this work in order to assist populations as they work to turn the authoritarian tide.

If you have suggestions for themes that you would like to see featured in future editions of the Peace Pulse, please send them to peacepulse@cdint.org. Graduate students who would like to work on publications in the future are also encouraged to contact our team.

Authoritarianism and democracy

This section highlights articles and reports that examine the rise of authoritarianism around the world as well as ways in which this trend can be counteracted.

- [Challenges to African incumbents will grow](#), Oxford Analytica, 20 December 2021.
 - [European democracies must 'revitalize' amidst authoritarian rise](#), Thibault Spirlet, Politico, 22 November 2021.
 - [Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege](#), Sarah Repucci & Amy Slipowitz, Freedom House, 2021.
 - [Global State of Democracy Report 2021](#), Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), 2021.
 - [Populism and Authoritarianism](#), Gabriella Gricius, The Palgrave Handbook of Populism, 16 November 2021.
 - [Regime cycles and political change in African autocracies](#), Andrea Carboni & Clionadh Raleigh, The Journal of Modern African Studies, 1 December 2021.
 - [Renewing democracy is 'defining challenge of our time,' Biden tells summit](#), Simon Lewis & Humeyra Pamuk, Reuters, 9 December 2021.
 - [Trading Democracy for Governance](#), Jie Lu & Yun-han Chu, Journal of Democracy, October 2021.
 - [Turning the Authoritarian Tide through Civic Education](#), International Foundation for Electoral Systems, 7 December 2021.
 - [Understanding the Global Rise of Authoritarianism](#), Melissa Morgan, Stanford University, 8 November 2021.
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Peacebuilding

CDI's peace action work focuses on preventing conflict, peacemaking and building sustainable peace. Our main strategy for this is political accommodation - a method for enabling users to develop their own approaches to reconciling divergent interests equitably.

- [Conflict Trends](#), The African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, December 2021.
- [Interrogating the Civilian Dimension of Peace Support Operations in Africa. AFISMA and AMISOM](#), Blessing Adedokun & Oluwole Dasyva, Journal of African Union Studies, 6 December 2021.
- [Mapping the Changing Structure of Conflict Networks in North and West Africa](#), Oliver J. Walther, Steven M. Radil & David G. Russell, African Security, 8 November 2021.
- [Role of Religion in Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Borno State, Nigeria](#), A. Abubakar, University of Maiduguri, 22 November 2021.
- [War versus peace logics at local levels: findings from the Conflict Research Programme on local agreements and community level mediation](#), Mary Kaldor, Marika Theros, & Rim Turkmani, London School of Economics, 12 November 2021.

Governance

Governance arrangements and political dialogue processes provide structure to a political system and help guide whether or not it is inclusive and participatory. CDI's governance and process frameworks support groups from different backgrounds to identify drivers of conflict in the system and develop creative solutions for addressing them.

- [Natural Resource Authoritarianism](#), S.P. Harish & Joseph Levine, William & Mary, 6 December 2021.

- [An Overview of the State of Electoral Democracy in Africa](#), Charles Manga Fomab, African Journal of Legal Studies, 14 December 2021.
- [The Political Marketplace Framework and Mass Starvation: How Can Humanitarian Analysis, Early Warning, and Response be improved?](#), Aditya Sarkar et al., Journal of Humanitarian Affairs, 22 December 2021.
- [Rethinking good governance as a tool for peace and security In Nigeria 1993 till date](#), Osmond Sunday Oboke & Elias Chukwuemeka Ngwu, University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy, 27 December 2021.

Peacebuilding Contexts

Somalia and Somaliland

Since 2009, CDI has worked with local partners in Somalia to support dialogue among and between Somali leaders and communities to help reconcile different interests and build lasting peace.

- [Examining Fragility and Aid in Somalia](#), Susan Handa, Journal of Somali Studies, 9 December 2021.
- [Federalism in post-conflict Somalia: A critical review of its reception and governance challenges](#), Abdinor Dahir & Ali Yassin Sheikh Ali, Regional & Federal Studies, 8 Nov 2021.
- [Key Issues and Challenges for Transforming Land Conflict in Somalia](#), Rift Valley Institute, November 2021.
- [Reforming the AU Mission in Somalia](#), International Crisis Group, 15 November 2021.
- [Why Power Sharing Pacts Fail to Hold in Africa: The Case of Somalia and the Paucity of the African Union](#), Nsama Jonathan Simuziya, Journal of Somali Studies, 9 December 2021.

South Sudan

CDI has supported South Sudan to construct a "House of Governance" that equitably serves all citizens and provides a framework for sustainable peace. We currently are exploring ways to support South Sudanese women's participation in governance and processes and the promotion of women's rights.

- [All roads lead to Juba: Two Sudans and a world of peace professionals](#), Matt Meyer & Light Aganwa, Peace & Change, 18 December 2021.
- [COVID-19 and Fragile Peace Process in South Sudan](#), John Peter Malish, World Health Organization, December 2021.
- [Civil Society Organizations in South Sudan: Journey to State Building and Sustainable Peace](#), Chidiebere Ogbonna & Joseph M. Makak, Journal of Humanities Insights, 6 December 2021.
- [No Peace Without Youth. Continued calls for change in South Sudan](#), Siril K. Herseth, Chr. Michelsen Institute, 1 November 2021.
- [Strengthening Knowledge Ecosystems: South Sudan Case Study](#), Ursina Bentele, Malish John Peter & Dr. Owen Ndoromo, Swisspeace, 15 November 2021.
- [What Happened at Wunlit? Reliving South Sudan's Most Successful Peace Conference](#), Machot Amuom, Rift Valley Institute, 18 November 2021.

Sudan

CDI works to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace in Sudan by supporting all stakeholders to develop inclusive frameworks, policies, and systems that will form the foundation of a new era of governance in Sudan.

- [Europe's stance on Sudan: Why backing the prime minister may not equate to](#)

- [backing democracy](#), Theodore Murphy, European Council on Foreign Relations, 25 November 2021.
- [Guardians of the revolution: The street activists defying Sudan's coup](#), Patricia Huon, The New Humanitarian, 14 December 2021.
- [The Gulf states and the Sudan coup – all is not what it seems](#), Camille Lons, International Institute for Strategic Studies, 16 November 2021.
- [Islamists may reap some benefits from Sudan's coup](#), Oxford Analytica, 1 December 2021.
- [Khartoum's autocratic enabler: Russia in Sudan](#), Mattia Caniglia & Theodore Murphy, European Council on Foreign Relations, 15 December 2021.
- [On the Coup in Sudan](#), Jean-Baptiste Gallopin, The London Review of Books Blog, 1 November 2021.
- [Prospects for Sudan's peace agreement in the shadow of the coup](#), Nils-Christian Bormann & Ibrahim Elbadawi, The Economic Research Forum, 30 November 2021.
- [What Next for the Juba Peace Agreement After the Coup in Sudan?](#), Rift Valley Institute, December 2021.

The United States

Although CDI's current work is primarily focused on East Africa, recent events have emphasized the pervasive effects of exclusion and inequality in the United States and the potential applicability of our work there.

- [The Concept of Pseudo-Conservatism as a Link Between *The Authoritarian Personality* and Early Critical Theory](#), John Abromeit, The Journal of the Northeastern Political Science Association, 10 November 2021.
- [Encourage youth to build a culture of peace and service](#), Kelly Lehman, Dayton Daily News, 30 December 2021.
- [Securing U.S. Democracy](#), Carrie Cordero, Lawfare, 13 December 2021.
- [Trump's Next Coup Has Already Begun](#), Barton Gellman, The Atlantic, 6 December 2021.
- [We Surveyed Experts on Democracy. They're Worried About the U.S. Turning Even More Authoritarian](#), The New Republic, 31 December 2021.

Books

This section includes some recent publications on the thematic and geographic regions that CDI focuses on.

- [Confronting Peace: Local Peacebuilding in the Wake of a National Agreement](#), Susan H. Allen, et al. Palgrave Macmillan, December 2021.
- [Rebuilding European Democracy: Resistance and Renewal in an Illiberal Age](#), Richard Youngs, Bloomsbury Publishing, 7 October 2021.

The Peace Pulse seeks to inform readers about recent debates and scholarship related to peacebuilding and governance, and Conflict Dynamics' peacebuilding contexts: Somalia and Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. Conflict Dynamics' peacebuilding initiatives aim to prevent and resolve violent conflict and to foster political stability. In working toward this goal, Conflict Dynamics supports people and their representatives to develop, agree upon, and implement practical arrangements for political dialogue processes and governance that accommodate diverse political interests in a balanced way.



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