

results have been: "long records of political instability and authoritarian rule." Elite transformations thus appear to "constitute the main and possibly the only route to democratic consolidation."¹³

Evidence from countries like Chile, Colombia and Uruguay indicate that the lack of elite transformation in Peru, Argentina and Brazil has indeed slowed the transformation to democracy.

III. Civil Society

One of the most fascinating parts of any transition to democracy is to watch the upsurge of popular activity once the reins of repression are relaxed. This process, usually termed mobilization or politicization is now subsumed under civil society revival or consolidation.

The idea of developing a civil society is seen to be another of the components of the transition to democracy. It refers to the coming together of individuals into autonomous civil groups of all kinds. Their presence "leads to mutual discoveries of common ideals, which acquire enormous political significance."¹⁴ In other words, the activities of these groups facilitate individuals' having greater control of their own destiny.

Thus, civil society is an important component of democracy because it supports collective action in a society where individual and personal freedoms prevail.¹⁵ In other words, civil society provides a balance between rugged individualism on the one hand, and the forced unity of collectivism on the other.

IV. Economic Development

For decades analysts have debated the relationship between economic development and

¹³ Higley and Gunther, *Elites and Democratic Development in Latin America*, p. xii.

¹⁴ O'Donnell and Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule*, p. 49.

¹⁵ Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*.