

A third institutional change occurring as part of democratization is civilian control of the military. In the name of "order" and "development," military rulers have seized almost total control of society. Paradoxically, even though they controlled the reins of power, few military governments have realized true order or development. The fact is they usually have had no more success than civilian authoritarian regimes.

Curbing the power of the military is a lengthy process, and challenging that power requires strong civilian institutions. Nevertheless, it can be done, as in Mexico, and slowly, in Chile, Argentina and Brazil. Attempts at curbing the military's power may lead to coups, or attempted coups as was the case in Argentina even in the 1990s. Yet, it is difficult for governments spending vast resources on the military to enact spending for social programs of any kind. And, for that reason, checking the power of an autonomous military is crucial in consolidating a meaningful democracy.

Cultural Change - Elite Transformation

A second form of change associated with democratization is cultural change, i.e. changes in individual attitudes, beliefs and values. Studies of culture, cultural change and their impact have focused on changing attitudes and values among elites as well as the masses.

One argument is that changing attitudes among societal elites is key to the process of democratization. There is a debate over whether this change is spawned by an "accommodation" by elites, i.e., their adapting to pressures generated in society; or whether elites fragment, and accommodation in fact grows out of competition in the political process.¹² Regardless of the origin of the accommodation process, some kind of elite transformation is recognized as a critical part of the transition to democracy.

In Latin America, where elites traditionally have dominated the political process, the tragic

¹² Diamond, et. al., *Democracy in Developing Countries*.