

assistance, deterrence, negotiation or presence? Finally, was there evidence that the mission led to a significant and pacific reversal of undemocratic electoral results?

Impact on Democratic Development

To what extent has electoral assistance led to greater security, political stability and protection of individual and political rights, and to the development of civil society? This is much more difficult to demonstrate than electoral process impact, however.

Capacity for Learning

In order to measure the potential for future improvement in electoral activity operation and impact, this final sub-category looks at two factors. First, it examines the organization's past record of positive electoral assistance reform. Second, it looks for current signs of learning capacity such as post-mission de-briefings, self-evaluation conferences, open-minded organizational leadership and modest bureaucracy.

6. Organization of the Study

The study is organized into three overlapping though relatively self-contained sections. The two-page *Executive Summary* provides a synopsis of the entire report. The next section on *Comparative Findings* provides a more comparative focus. It summarizes the observations and conclusions of the report and then proceeds to compare each of the five organizations in terms of rankings by sub-category, comparative advantage, and recommendations. Finally, a full *Electoral Activities Review* is presented for each multilateral organization, including background, descriptions of individual missions, observations, conclusions and recommendations.

7. About the Author

Taylor Wentges serves as a Policy Advisor in the Peacebuilding and Human Security Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In a personal capacity he observed elections in the Philippines (1992) and El Salvador (1994), and worked as a consultant for the OAS Unit for the Promotion of Democracy in 1994. He then served as an Electoral Specialist with the joint OAS-UN International Civil Mission to Haiti for the 1995 Haitian legislative elections. Mr. Wentges returned to University in September 1995 to undertake a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Toronto with a specialty in United Nations peacekeeping and democratic development. During the 1993 Canadian federal election he served as a deputy returning officer in Trinity-Spadina Riding; and then in the 1997 elections in Trinity-Spadina, trained all deputy returning officers, served as Assistant Automation Coordinator and was election day head logistics and information supervisor. Articles of his have appeared in Canadian Foreign Policy, Lester B. Pearson Peacekeeping Centre publications, The Toronto Star, and International Peacekeeping. He has travelled and researched extensively throughout Southeast and East Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean.