dissent; in fact, political opposition was violently suppressed. By holding the actions of governments to constitutional "rules of the game", individuals and groups can debate and oppose government policy. Therefore, liberalization is one way of achieving human rights.

The realization of human rights is a growing phenomenon in many Latin American states. While para military killings still occur in countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Colombia, the frequency and openness of these actions have diminished and the state has sought in all instances to address the problem, through reforms of the military justice system in Colombia, as one example. No doubt there is a strong correlation between the realization of human rights and the position of the military in a society. Bringing the military under the control of civilian political leaders is critical to liberalization of a society.

II.   Democratization

The democratization of a society encompasses two dimensions of change - institutional or structural changes, and cultural or attitudinal changes. Both types of change are integral to creating a regularized process of politics we call a democracy.

Institutional Changes

The first institutional change associated with democratization involves making political leaders responsible to the electorate. Free and fair elections create a system in which a plurality of elites compete for political power, i.e., the authority to make public decisions for society. These elites compete for the vote of the masses in society, and with a majority of that vote, their authority is legitimized. According to the theory of liberal democracy, these political elites, because they want to be returned to office, will govern in the interest of most voters.

This theory of democracy is simple, but one recognizes immediately the possibility of problems with its operation. For example, do elected political leaders always represent a majority of voters? How also does one guarantee representation of a minority? How "democratic" is a