

systems lacked some of the characteristics that are part of the transition, and in both countries the impact of narcotics production and trafficking and the corruption they engender have severely complicated the evolution of democratic institutions. The autonomy required for groups in order to strengthen civil society has been lacking in both countries. Yet in the transitory process, both countries appear to be moving toward a system where there are greater demands for social, economic and political autonomy of groups.

The first two components of the transition are democratization and liberalization.¹⁰ There is some debate, however, as to which of these changes comes first in a transitional process. Our intention is not to engage this controversy; obviously both components are critical to the development of any true democracy. In fact the two components involve changes that are very interdependent. Liberalization, or the limitation of state power, may create room for democratized groups and individuals in the political process. Or, greater democratization within groups and individuals may pressure elites to liberalize state power, and grant greater autonomy to groups and individuals. While both components are equally important to the transition, we will focus on liberalization first.

I. Liberalization

Liberalization involves limiting the power of the state and thus granting greater freedom of action to individuals and groups in society. It involves reducing repression and granting greater civil liberties.¹¹ Part of the basis for this particular change arises from an acceptance of "constitutionalism," i.e., a willingness to abide by the rules of the game enshrined in a constitution.

Frequently in Latin America, authoritarian systems were strongly opposed to any political

¹⁰ O'Donnell and Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule*.

¹¹ Mainwaring, et. al., *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*, p. 298).