

and expect from government. This idea suggests that underlying support of a government is linked to economic factors, and that this underlying support is one reason for political stability. It enable us to integrate the four components of the transition to democracy.

Conclusion: Political Legitimacy and Transitions to Democracy

The concept of political legitimacy offers a way of pulling together the interdependent components of the transitional process. Democratic legitimacy can be defined as: "the belief that for that particular country at that particular historical juncture, no other type of regime could assure a more successful pursuit of collective goals."¹⁸ It seems to us that the realization of the four components of the transition to democracy might just engender such sense of legitimacy, helping overcome the sense of alienation, even hostility, which have been at the root of political instability in Latin America.

¹⁸ Mainwaring, et al., *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*, p. 308).