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*Review Essays*

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## **Democracy by Default?**

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**To Craft Democracies. An Essay on Democratic Transitions.** *Giuseppe Di Palma*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1990.

**Exporting Democracy. The United States and Latin America.** *Abraham F. Lowenthal, ed.* Vol. I: Themes and Issues. Vol. II: Case studies. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Recent studies of democratization increasingly focus on the impact that decisions and explicit pacts made by influential elites have on the direction and speed of regime change. Based on the idea that individuals have power to shape outcomes, these studies look at microprocesses and at the relative indeterminacy of regime transitions (e.g., O'Donnell *et al.*, 1986; Di Palma and Whitehead, 1986). This focus is in marked contrast to influential studies of political change published during the 1960s and 1970s (Moore, 1966; O'Donnell, 1973), which emphasized the constraints caused by existing social arrangements and political alliances, alliances that did not necessarily result from explicit bargains. These studies emphasized macroprocesses and tried to identify the most likely paths of political transitions given past decisions and existing context.

The contrast goes beyond an emphasis on conjuncture or structure, on micro- or macroprocesses, to a contrast in mood. While the 1960s and

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