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Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development

Political Science and International Relations : African Politics

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Political Mobilizations and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa

- Examines democratization processes in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Presents multiple linear regression analyses with a dataset that covers all 351 direct national multi-party elections on the African subcontinent between 1990 and 2012
- Highlights implications for international democracy assistance programs

This book explores why democratization processes in Sub-Saharan Africa have made so little progress despite more than two decades of multi-party politics on the subcontinent. By applying multiple linear regression analyses to a new data set on multi-party elections in Sub-Saharan Africa, the study investigates the relationship between political mobilizations and electoral competitiveness. It finds that the more societal groups engage in political mobilizations, such as protests and strikes, the more competitive elections become. Based on these results, the author argues for a change in the policies of international democracy assistance programs. The study's findings suggest that efforts to promote democracy would likely be more successful if international donors focused their support on organizations that have active constituencies and are willing to use their mobilization capacity to address ruling elites with political or socio-economic grievances.

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