

- 1) the fall of right-wing authoritarian regimes in *Southern Europe* in the mid-1970s;
- 2) the replacement of military dictatorships by elected civilian governments across *Latin America* from the late 1970s through the late 1980s;
- 3) the decline of authoritarian rule in parts of *East and South Asia* starting in the mid-1980s;
- 4) the collapse of communist regimes in *Eastern Europe* at the end of the 1980s;
- 5) the *breakup of the Soviet Union* and the establishment of 15 post-Soviet republics in 1991;
- 6) the decline of one-party regimes in many parts of *sub-Saharan Africa* in the first half of the 1990s; and
- 7) a weak but recognizable liberalizing trend in some *Middle Eastern* countries in the 1990s.

1. Any country moving away from dictatorial rule can be considered a country in transition toward democracy
2. Democratization tends to unfold in a set sequence of stages (idea of sequencing)
3. Determinative importance of elections
4. The underlying conditions in transitional countries will *not* be major factors in either the onset or the outcome of the transition process
5. The assumption that the democratic transitions making up the third wave are being built on coherent, functioning states

“We define governance as the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised for the common good. This includes (i) the process by which those in authority are selected, monitored and replaced, (ii) the capacity of the government to effectively manage its resources and implement sound policies, and (iii) the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them.” (World Bank)