

## Section 12 Lesson Plan

### Housekeeping:

- Papers due next week at 5pm on Thursday – the usual. 6-8 pages, 3 choices. Any questions about them?
  - o Place them in the dropbox and email them to me.
- Will schedule some extra office hours early next week; probably during our section. Feel free to email me if the times don't work for you
- Jonathan Bruno coming in to introduce himself – he's the Lowell Gov CA and will be your advisor going forward (though you can obviously reach out to me if it's helpful.)

### Framing:

This week is about the interaction between democracies and the international institutional community. In a lot of ways, its about the future of democracy – as we move towards a more globalized and integrated world, how should we think about domestic democracies? This obviously relates to the questions of technology and democracy that we discussed last week, but also causes us to back to questions we started the class with. What does it mean to be a democracy? How do we define it? How much representation is necessary? All of these same questions translate to the delegation of authority to the international sphere; but we might find that our answers are different. So then the question becomes – why are our answers different?

Causes us to go back to questions we started the class with. What does it mean to be a democracy? What is required to consider a country a democracy? To what extent can we give up sovereignty to international institutions before the essence of democratic government starts to fade?

Today we'll focus on two main ideas:

- Can global democracy and international law co-exist?
- What is the role of non-governmental organizations in the international environment and international law-making? How democratic is NGO involvement in international law making?

### Part 1

→ Article presentation

### Part 2

→ Students spend 5 minutes talking to each other about the readings

- Assign them sides: one side has to look for reasons why global democracy and international law can coexist, and the other side has to look for reasons why they don't.
- Mini-debate
  - o Accountability

- Democratic deficit
- Power balance within international organizations, etc. [Andrew's question: What justification is there for the U.S. to wield such an outsize influence in institutions like the World Bank and IMF?]

How do international organizations affect domestic democratic politics? To what extent can we give up power to international organizations before we lose the essence of a democracy?

Steve asks – how do international organizations affect domestic authoritarian politics? Is it possible that international institutions can be co-opted by authoritarian leaders, thus legitimizing their power and hurting chances at democracy?

What should an ideal international organization look like? Who should be in control? How should decisions be made? [Direct v. representative democracy.] How do we ensure accountability – and who should the body be accountable to?

- do IOs hold states accountable, or the other way around?

### Part 3

What are private politics?

Under what conditions do private politics succeed? Why do some efforts at private politics work, while others fail?

What are the firms that are most sensitive to private politics and why?

How effective are private politics? Is there a saturation point for a particular issue with how many private players should be involved? How do these private players hold governments and other private players accountable? Are they actually effective?

Students can read: [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/22/business/international/battling-for-a-safer-bangladesh.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/22/business/international/battling-for-a-safer-bangladesh.html?_r=0)

How do we reconcile democratic values – in the domestic or international context – with the fact that a large portion of international law is dictated by private actors?