

of how their members are voting. Here it would seem clear that legislators are accountable to their party leaders.

The second half of the book is an attempt to measure the relative accountability of legislators in countries where voting is visible. Carey uses several measures or indices of 'voting unity' within parties. Such indices may not get at how responsive legislators are to their constituents, but they can give an idea of the relative accountability of parties: if legislators' voting patterns demonstrate no unity, then party label carries no informational value. Carey concentrates on three indices: how consistently party members vote the same way; how often they win; and how often losses might have been avoided had greater unity been shown. The latter measure is important, since rebellion is cheap if it is known it will not affect the result. RICE (a measure developed by Stuart Rice in 1925) is a measure of cross-voting by party members varying from 0 (equal number vote aye and nay) to 1 (they all vote the same way). Since RICE does not count abstentions, Carey proposes his new measure UNITY where the cross-voting proportions as shares of all members of the relevant party in the legislature. Thus UNITY also varies between 0 and 1 though obviously dips more easily as it takes account of abstentions. By combining these measure Carey creates RICE and UNITY indices for a number of countries and then compares these in a series of graphs plus tables of averages and standard deviations. We see some substantial differences across countries, but also across time within countries and across parties within a country.

What do we learn about institutional design from Carey's careful empirics? He addresses this question in Chapter 6, entitled "Explaining Voter Unity." There are a number of hypotheses in the literature that attempt to explain party discipline. Parliamentary systems are supposed to have more disciplined parties than presidential ones since the electoral link is clearer in the former; federalism is supposed to create divisions within parties, fostering less discipline; whilst electoral systems that foster competition within parties should create less unity as members vie for the votes of constituents. Of course these generalizations do not always hold; some presidential systems look more like parliamentary ones and political culture, the last explanatory refuge of the institutionalist scoundrel, can account for some divergencies from true form. Drawing a set of hypotheses from the literature, Carey examines them using his data. He finds that electoral rules matter; federalism seems to have no effect; and a popularly elected president does lead to greater disunity for governing parties in parliament but has no effect on opposition parties. It seems presidents create a new principal, partially eclipsing parliamentary leadership.

This book provides an important addition to legislative studies, furnishing new arguments and data at the legislator level to show how parties and legislatures are affected by institutional differences. In that regard it is an impor-

tant book. Yet, despite a final chapter that addresses the question, I have doubts about the link between the early discussion of lines of accountability and the empirics displayed here. Degree of unity might measure how well the line of party accountability works, but on its own cannot measure direct accountability to constituents; lack of unity might come from many different sources. To examine the constituent legislator link we need more information on ideological elements within parties, and the issues on which we would expect legislators to take more account of their constituents' views. Such information is absent from this book. But all books have their limits. And *Legislative Voting and Accountability* provides both new data and important insights into the links between legislators, parties, and representation.

Palestinian Civil Society: Foreign Donors and the Power to Promote and Exclude. By Benoît Challand. New

York: Routledge, 2009. 266p. \$140.00.

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— Laleh Khalili, *School of Oriental and African Studies*

A number of interesting recent works have focused on the significance of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Palestinian society and politics. Among the most important have been Rema Hammami's titled "NGOs: The Professionalization of Politics" (*Race and Class* 37 [January 1995]: 51–63), Sari Hanafi and Linda Tabar's (2005) *The Emergence of a Palestinian Globalized Elite: Donors, International Organizations and Local NGOs*, and *Aid, Diplomacy and Facts on the Ground*, edited by Michael Keating et al. (2005), which focuses on the effect of foreign donations on Palestinian society and economy. Benoît Challand's book is a significant addition to this corpus.

Challand's main argument is that "the overuse of civil society and its subtle imposition by external actors might become a source of heteronomy for the Palestinians," as donor-driven, "civil society" discourse does not admit the needs, concerns, and ideas of the Palestinian people themselves (p. 164). Challand defines heteronomy as the inability of a particular group to make and adhere to its own laws, and suggests that both the discursive performances of the NGOs and the demands of the donors in effect exclude Palestinians from participatory processes and exacerbate the heteronomy forced on Palestinians by Israeli occupation. To make this argument, he focuses on health-provision and advocacy NGOs, respectively. The book is based on interviews with representatives of more than 50 NGOs and more than 40 donor organisations.

Palestinian Civil Society is divided into two parts. In the first part, scholarly civil society debates are summarized, and Challand offers an interesting suggestion that rather than viewing civil society as a vehicle for democratization, it should be seen as an architect of political autonomy. The author conceives of autonomy along the

lines of Rousseau's *Social Contract*, maintaining that "the ultimate test of human freedom resides in the fact that the group (*l'état civil*) has the capacity to give and agree on its own laws. . . . In this process, the participation of each member of the social contract is the necessary component to this process of legislation" (p. 35). He then usefully (and unusually) examines Arab theorizations of civil society in light of this conceptualization, outlining three different views regarding the reality and possibility of civil society in the Arab Middle East. Challand describes Azmi Bishara's analysis as skeptical, where Bishara does not see civil society as a fully autonomous sphere of political action; summarizes Saad Eddin Ibrahim's conceptualization as pessimistic vis-à-vis Islamists, and therefore as cautious and potentially exclusive toward them; and celebrates the more inclusive theorization of Burhan Ghalioun, which conceives of civil society as inclusive of all political actors. Challand also usefully sketches the historical background of Palestinian NGOs since the 1970s.

In the second part of the book, the author provides a detailed analysis of the international donors and their specific approaches to civil society, a careful interrogation of the modus operandi of health-provision and advocacy NGOs and the way they deploy civil society discourses, and a critical reading of the mechanisms by which these NGOs politically, sociologically, and ideologically exclude the very people whose political participation would be the fundamental basis of political autonomy. These mechanisms include donor emphasis on projects that are aimed at supporting the defunct "peace process," rather than local needs and demands; the professionalization of the NGO leadership which rather than depoliticizing the NGOs produces a peculiar kind of homogenous and implicit politics; the creation of a class of globalized elite more responsive to international donors than to their Palestinian constituency; and a Eurocentric hierarchy that privileges certain familiar NGO organizational structures over more indigenous civil society forms.

Challand's research is fascinating, and the basic argument is sound. The focus on participation—rather than the devalued and contested concept of "democratization"—is innovative and useful beyond the bounds of Palestine. His knowledge of Arabic and his firsthand interviews with so many NGO operatives also means that a great deal of the research material here is new and not easily available elsewhere. Furthermore, although his critique of the concept of civil society does not go far enough (after all, as scholars such as Zygmunt Bauman have argued, today the "social" inherent in "civil society" explicitly elbows out political engagement and contestation), nevertheless, it is a sobering addition to the growing body of literature that has explicitly challenged the civil-society-promotion industry.

I wish that the book—which is cognizant of the way civil society has largely been reified and reduced to NGOs

(p. 30)—had actually spent some time looking at other "civil society" institutions, such as unions or popular committees, that have been such a significant part of Palestinian politics. Furthermore, although Challand goes further than most in his discussion of Islamic and Islamist non-governmental organizations, the fascinating material here is all too brief and leaves one wanting more.

As a final substantive point, one wishes that instead of the rather long-winded "ground clearing" in Part I, more pages had been devoted specifically to the encounter between the NGOs and the Palestinian population they ostensibly serve. Although Challand provides interesting abstract analyses here, it would have been extremely useful (and also novel) if we could have had a brief ethnography of the precise way in which NGO professionals deal in a quotidian context with the people who come to them for support.

More pedantically, the book is badly served by the publisher, who has not provided any copyediting, resulting in errors in word usage, such as "unaccessible" instead of "inaccessible" (p. 13), "predicator" instead of "predictor" (p. 29), "apparition" instead of "appearance" (p. 142), and so on. In some places, particularly in discussions of theory, the lack of any proofreading by the publisher has rendered the text more complicated than it should be. This carelessness is a shame, given that the intelligent and critical Challand has conducted extensive and thoughtful primary research in the Arabic language, and given that the book advances an important and novel argument about foreign donors exacerbating Palestinian heteronomy. He points the way toward a more critical examination of NGOs and civil society, and his fidelity to on-the-ground fieldwork is well worth emulating.

Political Institutions under Dictatorship. By Jennifer Gandhi. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2008. 256 p. \$85.00. doi:10.1017/S1537592709990181

— Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Yale University*

While democratization has long been a major theme in political science, recent years have seen a renewed interest in the topic of dictatorship. Jennifer Gandhi's book is a welcome addition to this literature. Gandhi argues that most autocrats need popular and elite support to remain in power. Operating through pure coercion is costly and risky. Dictators in her framework are not just concerned with extracting rents from society. They also have policy goals. Many powerful rulers thus accommodate representative political institutions to help them obtain information on public and elite opinion and to facilitate bargaining. They recognize that it is often better to include societal groups in the process of governing than to risk a turn to street protests, violence, or guerilla warfare. They may accommodate wealthy elites that have the capacity to exit for more promising opportunities abroad.

See details and exclusions - Palestinian Civil Society : Foreign Donors and , Challand, Benoit,, Buy it now. Add to basket.Â Benoit Challand is a research fellow at the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) and has taught at the universities of Bologna, Bethlehem, Pavia and Fribourg. Country of Publication. United Kingdom. Benoit Challand is Associate Professor in the Sociology Dept., New School for Social Research in New York. He is the author/co-author of the books *Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory and Identity* (2013); *The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations* (2011), and *Palestinian Civil Society: Foreign Donors and the Power to Promote and Exclude* (2008). He has also edited/co-edited *The Struggle for Influence in the Middle East: The Arab Uprisings and Foreign Assistance* (2016); *Social Theory and the Arab Uprisings* (as a special issue of *Constellations. An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*). The foreign relations of the State of Palestine have been conducted since the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964. In November 1988, the PLO's Palestinian National Council declared the independence of the State of Palestine and in 1994 the PLO established the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) following the Oslo Accords. The PLO Executive Committee performs the functions of the government of the State of Palestine.