

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
REGIME CHANGE

Terms and concepts to know:

Coup d'état

Democratic consolidation

Founding election

Pact

Regime change

Transition to democracy

Study and discussion questions:

1. Describe the strategy as expressed by Kevin Gosztola for instituting “regime change” under the Trump administration in Venezuela. Why do many support this type of intervention, and does it have any legitimacy?
2. Explain the recent coup in Myanmar and why Green sees it as “[t]he first test for Biden’s democracy agenda. How would someone who critically analyzed US foreign policy take issue with this story?
3. Fayazmanesh sarcastically (but I would say accurately) describes how to do a “proper” regime change in Iran. Why will the Biden administration be very unlikely to follow his advice?
4. Describe how conservatives such as Hajjar would define “maximum pressure.” Would it be likely to work in a country such as Iran? Why or why not?
5. A new alliance with Al Qaeda? Who would have thunk it!? Why would the American government be changing its opinion about the possibility of working with the people who supposedly attacked the US on 9/11? A good idea?
6. Why does the military intervene in politics in certain countries and not in others?
7. How can civilians maintain effective control over the military? When the military takes power, what explains how it rules and how much power, if any, it shares with civilians?
8. What best explains why some new democracies survive whereas others revert to authoritarianism?
9. Can a democracy survive in any country, or does it require a certain type of society, culture, or economy?

Readings:

Orvis / Drogus – Chapter 9

Video:

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.