

Recasting Development in 2024

Tuesday 30 January 2024 | 16:00-17:30 (UK time)



Recasting development in 2024

Authoritarianism and resistance

Marjoke Oosterom, Research Fellow
and Cluster Leader, Power & Popular
Politics

Institute of Development Studies

In 2023 more countries autocratised than democratised.

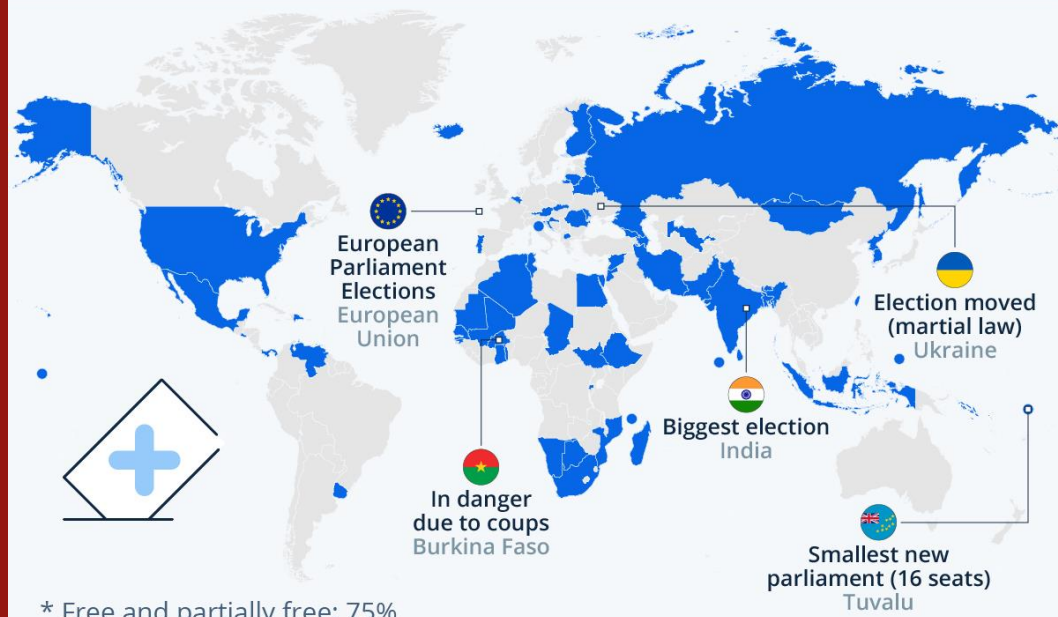
The 2024 elections may result in (more) governments actively eroding democracy

There will be resistance, but in which forms and with what impact?

2024: The Super Election Year

Countries where a national election is/was held in 2024

Expected number of voters: **2B** (~25% of world pop.) Share of free elections*: **38%**



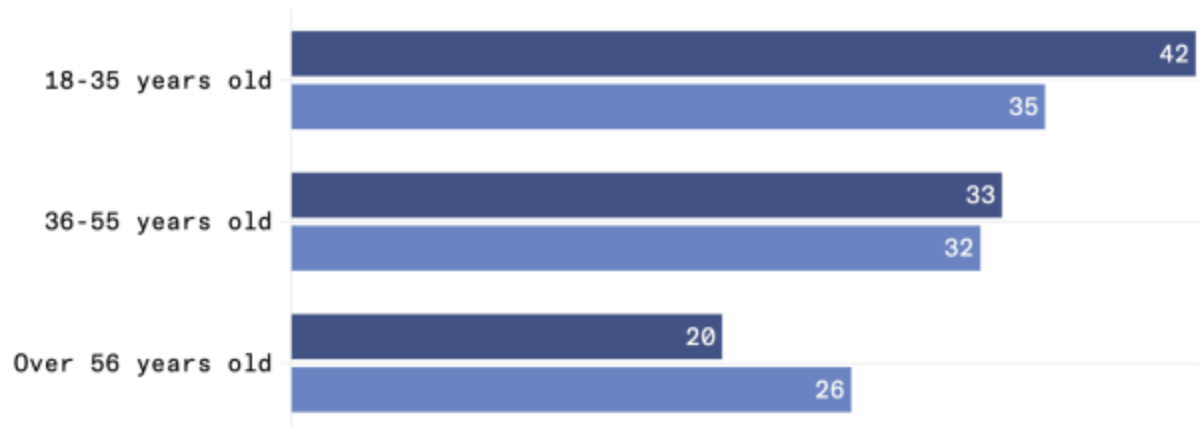
* Free and partially free: 75%
General, parliamentary, presidential and economic union elections

Young people are more favourable about autocratic leaders than older people

PERCEPTIONS OF ARMY RULE AND LEADERS WHO DO NOT BOTHER WITH PARLIAMENT OR ELECTIONS BY AGE GROUP

Global averages by age of respondents who believe army rule and leaders who do not bother with parliaments* or elections is a good way of running a country

■ Army rule ■ Leader who does not bother with parliament/or elections



Source: Open Society Barometer: Can Democracy Deliver?, Open Society Foundations



Global forms of resistance to authoritarianism and democratic backsliding



Looking ahead



Prioritising a politics of hope and resistance

Democracy funding uncertain

A need for international solidarity and democratic alliances

Recasting development in 2024

Economic democracy and food

Jodie Thorpe, Research Fellow,
Business, Markets and the State

Institute of Development Studies

Economic democratisation

People gaining greater control over economic decisions that affect their lives e.g. what is produced, how (via what technology, through which networks), and for what ends



Credit: ctsenatedems / Flickr



Credit: Tom Brewster Photography / Flickr

FREEDOM ON THE NET 2023

The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence

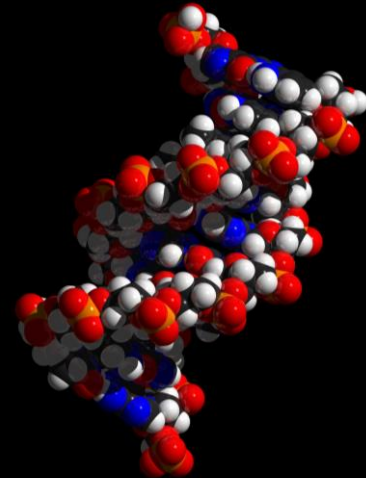


WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD



Credit: Nick Youngson



Food systems: building on the ruptures created by the pandemic

Approach to economic democracy

What happened during Covid-19



Participative and self-organising, links to representative democracy

Deliveries of organic food baskets + books by black authors



Participative and deliberative democracy, which is self-organising

Weekly free deliveries of culturally appropriate food

Food Cell



Deliberative democracy engaged with formal policy processes

Redistribution of surplus food; focus on affordable essentials with dignity

Goals: Tackling food, health, waste, social cohesion, livelihoods, culture

Understanding how to increase economic democracy



1. Self-organisation or formal policy processes: what's the relationship?

3. When do authorities support, and when do they oppose?

2. How does democratisation occur in either case?

4. Is it inevitably local, or is more systemic transformation possible?

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Humanitarianism

Dr Philip Proudfoot, Research Fellow,
Power & Popular Politics

Institute of Development Studies

Do we need to accept that humanitarianism is political?

Humanitarians insist they are guided only by **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence**

But, humanitarians *already* do politics

Long and short-term forces are reshaping both the 'utilitarian' and 'ethical' imperatives of humanitarian neutrality



Long-term:
Proliferating
protracted crises

Short-term:
Gaza, impunity,
and hypocrisy



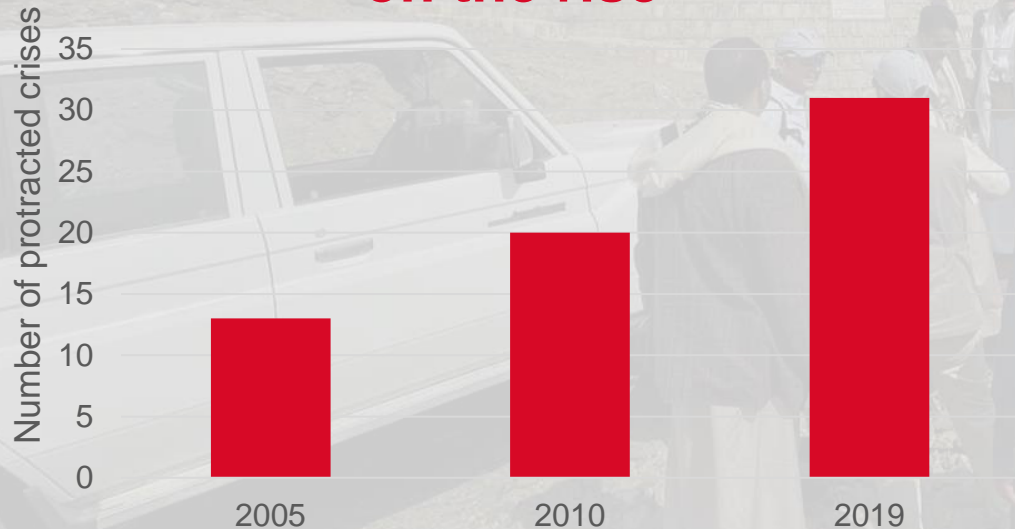
What does it mean to be a humanitarian in Israel and Gaza?

**WE TAKE ACTION,
NOT SIDES.**



Long-term: The humanitarian shadow state

**Protracted crises are
on the rise**



Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023, Development Initiatives

The humanitarian system is increasingly becoming a protracted crisis management system.

How can the system create a transition from independent organisations to governments if its mandate remains 'non-political'?

Short-term: Humanity or Neutrality? Genocide in Gaza

Breaches of International Humanitarian Law	Damaging Humanitarian Operations	Undermining Moral Authority
Deliberate destruction of OIS (Objects Indispensable to Survival)	De-confliction & No Protection	"Humanitarian Pause"
Collective Punishment	Needs Assessments	Donor political alignments
Forced Displacement	Aid Distribution	Campaign against UNRWA (defunding)
Targeting UN/Civilian Infrastructure	Blocking access/ PNG-ing UN staff and more UN workers killed in any "conflict" for organisation's history	Veto power in UN Security Council & UN General Assembly

Values risk being discredited

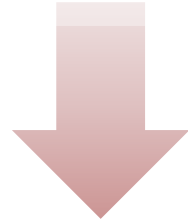
**Humanity
Neutrality
Impartiality
Independence**



**Racialised
Complicit
Biased
Controlled**

Is it time for a new humanitarian value?

Neutrality



Justice

Recasting development in 2024

Financial Systems

Mbakiso Magwape, Postdoctoral
Fellow, Governance & International
Centre for Tax and Development

Institute of Development Studies

52 low- and middle-income developing economies are either in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress, accounting for more than 40% of people vulnerable to poverty.

Source: 2023 Financing for Sustainable Development report



How did we get here?

Overlending & public financial management deficiencies

International financial architecture – high cost (interest rates), access to credit

Inadequate taxation – developing countries at 17% of GDP as opposed to 34% in advanced economies (2021)

Covid-19

Risks and opportunities

- Public services – energy, healthcare, social protection
- African Continental Free Trade Area – increased intra-African trade is dependent on infrastructure development
- Priority issues – food security, climate adaptation

Priority areas for reform

- 1 Domestic & international tax regimes
- 2 International financial architecture
- 3 Accountability – expenditure, transparency & sustainability
- 4 Multilateral bodies – WTO, UN (UNFCCC)

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Power and just transitions

John Gaventa, Professor, Power &
Popular Politics

Institute of Development Studies



The world is calling for a just transition to a new post-fossil fuel economy

But whose justice, and what kinds of transition?

“Considering development without power and relationships is like analysing irrigation without considering water and its distribution.”
Robert Chambers

Image: Port Talbot steel works in Wales. Credit: Phil Beard / Flickr

What happens to power when the material base on which it is built declines?

Hollowed out communities

→ Growth of authoritarian politics

→ Old actors cling on to power

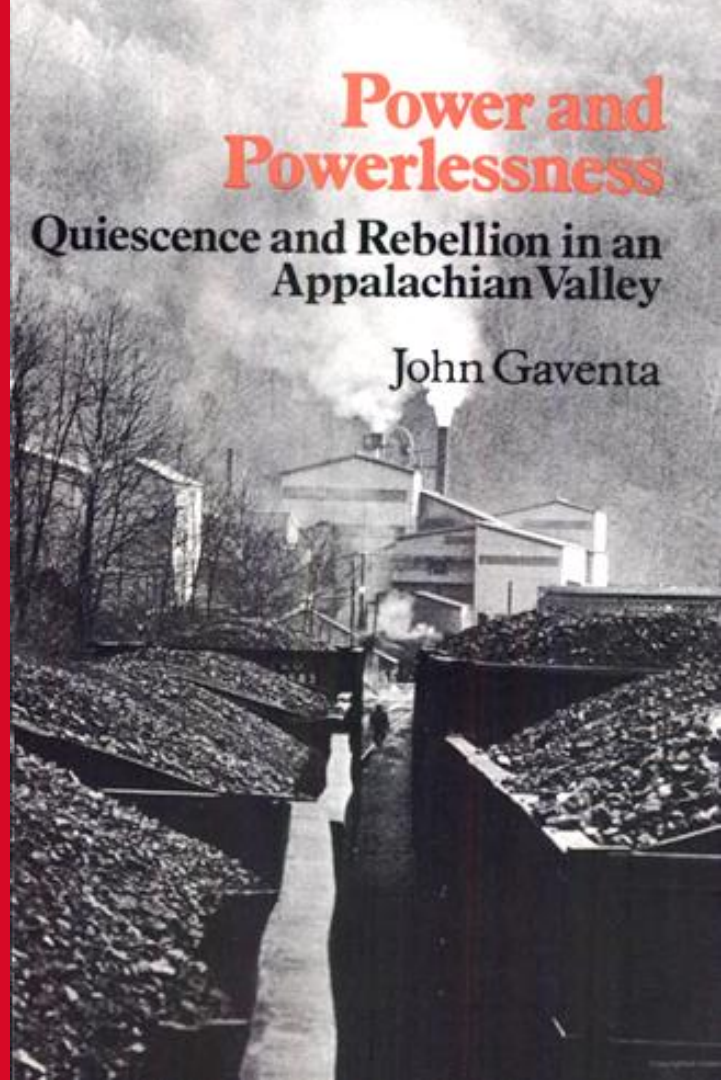
→ New forms of extraction emerge

→ Social action shifts from oppositional to propositional

Power and Powerlessness

Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley

John Gaventa



The microcosm writ larger

- The development model in many countries is built on fossil fuel extraction
- Other forms of development rely on cheap fossil fuels
- New forms of resource grabbing as corporations scramble for replacements
- In response, multiple forms of social movements and contestations are emerging

Recasting development is about tackling power relations, in the struggle for a more just post-fossil fuel world.

In 2024, should we be focusing on “**just transformations**”?