

Democratic Transitions

Political Science

How regimes change, and what makes the change stick.

The usual sequence.

1

Liberalisation

Some restrictions relaxed; opposition tolerated.

2

Rupture or pact

The old regime collapses, or negotiates its exit.

3

Founding election

The first genuinely competitive contest.

4

Institution building

Courts, civil service, media, electoral bodies.

5

Consolidation

Democracy becomes the only game in town.

Educational reference. Consolidation is often marked by the first peaceful handover of power to an opposition party.