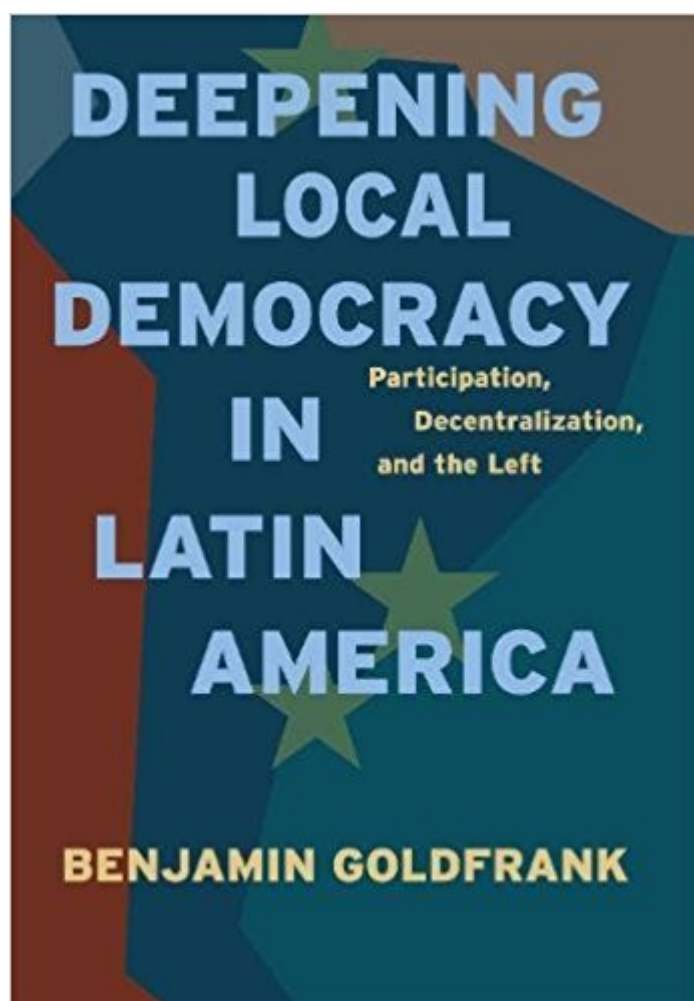


The book was found

# Deepening Local Democracy In Latin America: Participation, Decentralization, And The Left



## Synopsis

The resurgence of the Left in Latin America over the past decade has been so notable that it has been called 'the Pink Tide.' In recent years, regimes with leftist leaders have risen to power in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Uruguay, and Venezuela. What does this trend portend for the deepening of democracy in the region? Benjamin Goldfrank has been studying the development of participatory democracy in Latin America for many years, and this book represents the culmination of his empirical investigations in Brazil, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In order to understand why participatory democracy has succeeded better in some countries than in others, he examines the efforts in urban areas that have been undertaken in the cities of Porto Alegre, Montevideo, and Caracas. His findings suggest that success is related, most crucially, to how nationally centralized political authority is and how strongly institutionalized the opposition parties are in the local arenas.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Penn State University Press; 1 edition (March 4, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0271037946

ISBN-13: 978-0271037943

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #4,742,075 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Uruguay #220 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Venezuela #900 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Brazil

## Customer Reviews

Benjamin Goldfrank's proposal to compare various leftist-sponsored experiments in collective participation in local decision-making represents a valuable contribution. . . . This book is an example of exceptional scholarship. It is well focused, explores the theoretical and practical implications of its findings and draws on extensive fieldwork and considerable secondary literature. • "Steve Ellner, *Journal of Latin American Studies* • This is a superb book, built on in-depth comparisons of local experiments with participatory processes in Venezuela, Uruguay, and Brazil, mainly in the 1990s. . . . Benjamin Goldfrank's book should become a key reference on

the deepening of local democracy in Latin America and beyond. . . . Beyond elaborating a compelling, well-substantiated, and substantively significant argument, this book helps to extend a literature that deserves continued attention. Goldfrank rightly recognizes the impressive works on participatory democracy in these cases individually, as well as comparative subnational work. . . . This book delivers on all counts. It will be referenced for its arguments, but it also deserves to be read as a book. It is a model for careful empirical work and theory building on questions of lasting and growing importance.

• J. Tyler Dickovick, *Latin American Politics and Society* "An incisive and thorough analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of experiences of participatory democracy in contemporary Latin America."

• F. E. Panizza, *The London School of Economics and Political Science* "Before leftist parties began electing presidents in Latin America at the turn of the century, they were electing mayors and experimenting with participatory forms of democracy at the municipal level. In this outstanding book, Benjamin Goldfrank explores the most important of these participatory experiments in Brazil, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Drawing from intensive field research and original public opinion surveys, Goldfrank analyzes why some participatory programs are more effective than others, and he carefully explains how these different outcomes relate to the institutional features of decentralization policies and the nature of partisan opposition. For anyone who seeks to understand the opportunities for and the constraints on the 'deepening' of democracy in contemporary Latin America, this insightful book is essential reading."

• Kenneth M. Roberts, *Cornell University* "This volume is a well-researched comparative study of the empowerment of local citizens in the 1990s in three South American cities: Caracas, Venezuela; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Porto Alegre, Brazil."

• S. L. Rozman, *Choice* "Goldfrank shows how participatory democracy's biggest challenges, including social inequality, bureaucratic inefficiency, and political rivalry, can be surmounted."

• *NACLA Report on the Americas* "Goldfrank has constructed an excellent and timely empirically grounded study into the emergence in the late 1980s and early 1990s of Latin American participatory innovations which resulted from attempts to deepen democracy by decentralising the vote for city mayors to the electorate. . . . Deepening Local Democracy in Latin America provides an insight into the development of the left as a result of decentralisation and participation, by providing a detailed, comparative account of how they were opposed, badly designed or successfully supported by a range of government parties. Furthermore, the extent to which the quality of democracy varied across the three cases is explored through the degrees to which participatory innovations were decentralised, the degree of opposition they had, and whether they had an open, regulated or restrictive design. In its empirical approach and theoretical underwriting, the work succeeds in providing a convincing insight into the various issues

facing citizen participation in Latin America. . . . As Goldfrank applies his understanding of participation in Latin America more recently in the conclusion, his work stands as an excellent statement on deepening democracy in Latin America, as well as the obstacles this process can encounter.âAdam Gill, Political Studies ReviewâThis is an impressive book and a major contribution to the debates about the direction of democracy and of the Left in Latin America.âAlan Angell, Bulletin of Latin American Research

Benjamin Goldfrank is Assistant Professor at the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Deepening Local Democracy in Latin America: Participation, Decentralization, and the Left Barrio  
Democracy in Latin America: Participatory Decentralization and Community Activism in Montevideo  
The Differential Impact of Women's Participation in the Arab Spring - Social Media, Information  
Technology, Group Identities, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Barriers to Protest, Gender Participation  
Decentralization and Popular Democracy: Governance from Below in Bolivia Democracy in Practice:  
Public Participation in Environmental Decisions Left in Transformation: Uruguayan Exiles and the  
Latin American Human Rights Network, 1967 -1984 (Latin American Studies) A Caesar Reader:  
Selections from Bellum Gallicum and Bellum Civile, and from Caesar's Letters, Speeches, and  
Poetry (Latin Edition) (Latin Readers) (Latin and English Edition) The New Urban Crisis: How Our  
Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class&#151;and  
What We Can Do About It The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality,  
Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class - and What We Can Do About It Making  
Number Talks Matter: Developing Mathematical Practices and Deepening Understanding, Grades  
4-10 Deepening the Commitment: Zionism and the Conservative/Masorti Movement Bones Would  
Rain from the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs Thirty-Eight Latin Stories Designed to  
Accompany Wheelock's Latin (Latin Edition) Music, Dance, Affect, and Emotions in Latin America  
(Music, Culture, and Identity in Latin America) The Cambridge History of Latin America, Volume 6,  
Part 2: Latin America since 1930: Economy, Society and Politics: Politics and Society Early Latin  
America: A History of Colonial Spanish America and Brazil (Cambridge Latin American Studies)  
Everynight Life: Culture and Dance in Latin/o America (Latin America Otherwise) Staying Healthy in  
Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Moon Handbooks Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa & Latin America)  
BUENOS AIRES Travel Guide. What To Know Before You Go: The uncommon guidebook and  
insider tips for Buenos Aires, Argentina. Know Like a Local. Go Like a Local. Live Like a Local.

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help