

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY: PRESSING THE RE-SET BUTTON ON INTERNATIONAL POLICY

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Session 2

DEMOCRACY, ECONOMICS, AND UNFORSEEN COUPLINGS

WEBSTER: How can democracy be strengthened in times of economic crisis?

GUEHENNO: Because of the economic crisis, it's going to make the debate much harsher on issues of equality and issues of solidarity.

BREMMER: The way that petrostates respond is dependent very much on whether or not these governments view the threat to their own stability as imminent.

HAMID: Now that the economic crisis is obviously one of the major issues facing developing countries in various regions, how will that affect the traction that opposition parties are able to get on the issue of political reform?

PUSCHRA: In terms of promoting and supporting democracy, we should rather think not in terms of sanctions but rather in terms of giving positive incentives to young and emerging democracies.

PUDDINGTON: Do you believe that there is such a thing as a China model, political, that flows from its economy, or is there just China?

BREMMER: The very fact that China is leading the world in terms of rebound from this recession is going to matter a lot for this question of where economic models versus democracy plays.

OTTAWAY: China proves that you can have economic development, and really rapid economic development, without having to open up the political system.

EL-MIKAWY: How are they going to manage the rise of the middle class? Because they need to have the export-led model balanced by a demand-led model from an expanding middle class.

ROSENTHAL: I think it's impossible to prove that democratic governance is a prerequisite for good economic performance.

KAPAMBWE: Is it true that, in the changed circumstances in Africa, trade unions are seen as agents of democracy?

LAURENTI: Even in the post-cold War democratization period, that the American investments

in democracy have tended to be to middle-class and more educated groups, and not so much investment in the labor union side.

MUNEKU: Trade unions in Africa continue to play this important role, and they are potentially capable and able to influence change. They believe in the norms of democracy.

WEBSTER: In many ways, Robert Mugabe has argued that the fact that there are sanctions as the key electoral explanation for why there's a crisis in the country.

SCHLESINGER: When do you decide economic sanctions work, and when do you decide they don't work?

ROSENTHAL: You certainly can make good economic performance and democratic governance work in your favor.

BREMMER: If the United States were to say that they want to remove sanctions against North Korea, and it was credible, what do we think the likelihood is that the North Koreans would react in an intentionally very provocative way to ensure that those sanctions stay on?

MUNEKU: Sanctions also have to make sense from a moral and humanitarian point of view.

RICH: Quality democracy leads to quality development. And I think this is something that we can hold on to, that what we should be looking for is not just threshold democracy.