Book Review

Alexei D. Voskressenski, ed., *Is Non-Western Democracy Possible: A Russian Perspective.* **Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Company, 2017, 768 pp., US$120.00 (Hardcover). ISBN: 978-981-3147-37-9.**

We live in an 'age of democracy', it is claimed, but recent events in many developing countries raise some fundamental questions. Erdogan's victory in Turkish presidential election held in June 2018 tightening his grip over legislature and judiciary, Putin's victory in the Russian presidential election in May 2018 strengthening the presidency, the victory of far right Jair Bolsonaro as President in Brazil, the consolidation of dictatorship in North Korea, the banning of Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the electoral victory of a Hindu Nationalist party in India have raised two sets of questions: (a) whether such phenomena require non-Western perspectives to understand the political developments in these countries beyond the normative theories of democracy? (b) Whether liberal democracy is retreating in many of the non-Western societies? This edited volume undertakes an exhaustive research consisting of sixteen chapters to understand the complexities associated with democracy.

The book attempts to understand evolution of political cultures across Africa and Asia. It undertakes a comparative analysis of political systems of the Eastern countries. The volume seeks to answer the intriguing question: is non-Western democracy possible?

The first chapter lays down the theoretical groundwork to analyze the inherent discrepancies between Eastern and Western democracies. The book in fact locates the largest democracy in the world, India, to the East and not the Western hemisphere. In its attempt to understand diverse forms of government, the book classifies them into limited and open access depending on their different social orders. It also argues that some countries belong to the limited status, while others to the open access status due to the 'problems of primarily internal character'. The factors

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