



The Pseudo-Democrats Dilemma Why Election Monitoring Became an International Norm

By Susan D. Hyde

Cornell University Press. Hardcover. Condition: New. 248 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 1.0in. Why did election monitoring become an international norm? Why do pseudo-democrats and democratic leaders who present themselves as democratic invite international observers, even when they are likely to be caught manipulating elections? Is election observation an effective tool of democracy promotion, or is it simply a way to legitimize electoral autocracies? In *The Pseudo-Democrats Dilemma*, Susan D. Hyde explains international election monitoring with a new theory of international norm formation. Hyde argues that election observation was initiated by states seeking international support. International benefits tied to democracy give some governments an incentive to signal their commitment to democratization without having to give up power. Invitations to nonpartisan foreigners to monitor elections, and avoiding their criticism, became a widely recognized and imitated signal of a government's purported commitment to democratic elections. Hyde draws on cross-national data on the global spread of election observation between 1960 and 2006, detailed descriptions of the characteristics of countries that do and do not invite observers, and evidence of three ways that election monitoring is costly to pseudo-democrats: micro-level experimental tests from elections in Armenia and Indonesia showing that observers can deter election-day fraud and otherwise...



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