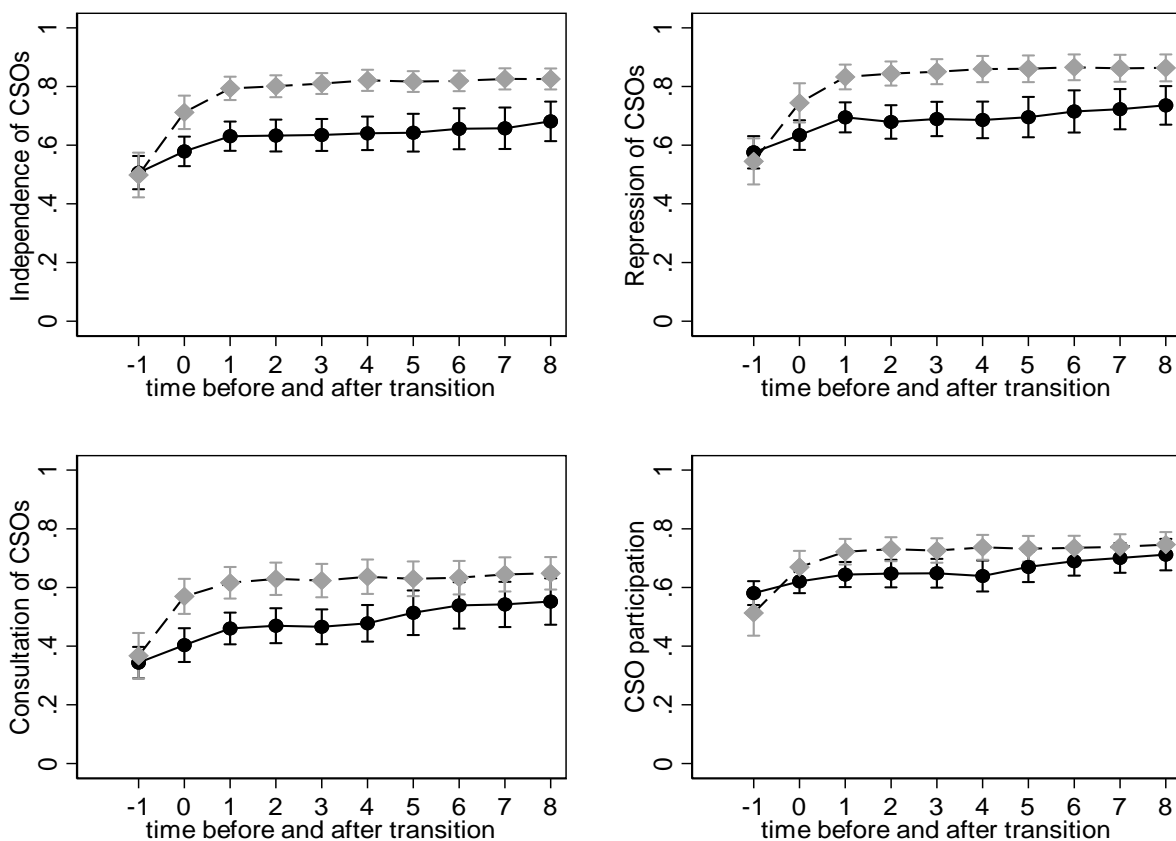


The Path to Democratic Transition: What Role for Civil Resistance?

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Figure 1 describes the results of the study. The graphs show average scores for the different indicators across the two groups of cases (i.e. with NVR-induced transition and without) from one year before the democratic transition occurred until eight years after the transition. The CSO indicators were standardized so that higher values indicate better prospects for CSOs.

Figure 1: Four Dimensions of Prospects for Civil Society After Democratic Transitions



Note: Grey markers refer to cases where democratization was induced by an NVR campaign and black markers refer to cases where democratic transition was achieved without NVR.

As shown in figure 1, NVR-induced democratic transitions clearly help to advance CSOs' levels of independence from governments, as CSOs encounter only minimal government control after transition and limit considerably the amount of repression that CSOs are confronted with during five years into transition. In cases of democratization without NVR, CSOs operate less independently and governments retain some amount of control. CSOs still have to deal with higher amounts of legal harassment and restrictions than in the situations when society remains nonviolently mobilized.

NVR also seems to improve aspects of CSO consultation, which refers to the degree of involvement of CSOs in policymaking. However, while during the first four years after transition there is a substantial difference between NVR-induced democracies and those where democracy came about by other means, the gap between the two diminishes as democracy endures for longer time periods. This does not mean that policymaking in NVR-induced democracies becomes less inclusive over time but rather that governments in

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countries with a legacy of a violent or top-down transition over time also allow more CSO involvement in political processes.

Finally, the results reveal that regarding the existence of independent CSOs and the number of people involved in their activities, there appears to be no substantial difference between NVR-induced democracies and countries that achieved democracy by other means.