

Hischier, Guido (Zürich) 1986

***Sequenzen politischer Regimes in
Entwicklungsländern***

Why study changes of political regimes in developing countries?

Our point of departure is world society, i.e. the world-wide environment of all kinds of actors (individuals, organizations, local communities, nations and nation-states). Special emphasis is put on world society as the environment of nations and nation-states.

There are two major conceptualizations of this environment: the center-periphery model and the mode of international and intergovernmental stratification. The center-periphery model represents the perspective from above: the center decides what happens in the periphery. The stratification model defines systematically varying situations (strata) and asks for the reactions of those involved in these particular situations.

Of course, both conceptualizations can be combined. Developing countries represent a broad stratum of the international development system. This stratum may coincide or not with the periphery of the world economy.

We look at the political regimes as important links between national societies, the international and intergovernmental systems and the world economy. This link is an essential element of the concept of world society underlying this study. It not only connects different world-wide systems but also different system levels.

The change of world society may be described in terms of the changing pattern of relationships between the systems linked by political regimes. At the same time we assume that political regimes may play an active role in changing these relationships. In other words, in order to know how and why world society changes we also have to study changes of political regimes.