

Conclusion

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Democracy, when stripped down to its roots, is built on the idea that change happens. Political parties rise and fall, sometimes in the same election cycle. As unpredictable as the Washingtonian weather, democracy would not survive without the inherent potential for change.

Take, for instance, the recent elections in Ukraine and Iraq. Both were touted as symbols of the triumph of democracy over tyranny. To be successful democratic elections, there had to be the possibility of change. The eventual outcome was not known. What was known is that until corruption and the possibility of stacking the deck to warp the outcome were removed, democracy could not spread its wings. There has to be the possibility of change, even if the outcome of that change cannot be fully envisioned at the time.

And with the knowledge that democracy is all about change, *Demokratizatsiya* cannot be true to itself without embracing change. As Fredo Arias-King outlined in the introduction, *Demokratizatsiya* is undergoing its own perestroika. Some of the changes, such as the reorganization of the editorial board, are outright visible. Other changes are more subtle and take longer to implement.

Starting with this issue, *Demokratizatsiya* now includes abstracts with key words for each article. In addition to providing the reader with a convenient overview of the material covered in these articles, the inclusion of the abstracts will, ideally, allow *Demokratizatsiya* to be carried by additional abstracting services, giving the journal access to a wider audience.

Heldref Publications has recently signed on with ScholarOne for its services in online manuscript tracking. Although the changeover is still several years down the road, eventually all author submissions will be processed and sent to peer reviewers electronically through the ScholarOne Manuscript Central Web site. This will allow for faster processing of manuscripts and the ability for authors, editors, and reviewers to track the progress of manuscripts through the selection process.

Another change for *Demokratizatsiya* is the improvement of the Web site (<http://www.demokratizatsiya.org/>). The Web site has been active for a number

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of years but only for providing bare-bones information. Currently, improvements are being made to the Web site to provide access to content that does not appear in Heldref's pay-per-view archives, such as complete tables of contents from the very first issue to the present and updated contact information and submission guidelines.

These are just some of the small changes that will take place in *Demokratizatsiya's* future. More changes will take place as well, both those that are currently being planned and those that have not yet been conceived.

Change, like democracy, is an ongoing process requiring hard work, long hours, and tireless dedication. But one other key ingredient is essential in democracy—participation by the people. My e-mail inbox (dem@heldref.org) is always open for suggestions, compliments, and criticisms. Let me know what you want from *Demokratizatsiya* and what direction you think this journal should take. From its inception to today and well into the future, *Demokratizatsiya* is designed to be a journal of change.