

M.I. LICHBACH, *Democratic Theory and Causal Methodology in Comparative Politics*, University of Maryland, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 232 pp., ISBN: 978-1-107-62235-7

Deriving heavily from Barrington Moore's *Social Origins of Democracy and Dictatorships: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* and examining the issues displayed by Moore through the comparativist scopes of texts from Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, Lisa Wedeen, Atul Kohli, and Charles Tilly, Lichbach uses a methodological approach to explore causal democratic theory. The key question, as with many comparativist political thinkers, looks at the pragmatic application of democracy, *i.e.* is the ideal form of democracy one that is purely free and rational, allowing the most direct configuration of political agency to come forward, or does a functioning democracy, thick or thin, need to understand the forces from which it has been created, and shape institutions working within the constraints of the society from which it is derived from? Lichbach uses a methodological approach to examine this question, breaking down rationalism and constructivism by the scope of each of the examined texts, and concludes with a multitheoretical approach to understanding democratization and its development.

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D. O'BRIEN, *The Constitutional Systems of the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Contextual Analysis* (Constitutional Systems of the World), Hart Publishing, 2014, 328 pp., ISBN-10: 184946152X, ISBN-13: 978-1849461528

Colonization played an important role in the Caribbean during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Establishing political control over a particular geographic region and a particular people was necessary in order to increase power, extort resources and have cheap labor. Many countries in the Caribbean had the common experience of colonization by the British Empire. The legal systems put into place were based on the English system. However, when these countries gained their