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New Wave of Democratization Needed to Boost Global Human Development

In its recent *Human Development Report*, the *United Nations Development Program* (UNDP) concluded that democracy deficit puts human development and security at risk. The report says that throughout the 1980s and 1990s political development had been regarded subordinate to economic growth, which proved disastrous to global human development. At the end of twentieth century a wave of democratisation emerged forcing authoritarian regimes to implement democratic reforms. Nevertheless, a reverse wave has been triggered off by political instability in recent years causing global economic decline. A new wave of democracy building is said to be urgently required to guarantee future global economic development.

(<http://www.undp.org/hdr2002/complete.pdf>)²⁰⁰²

The Islamic World: a Democracy Gap

According to a report by *Freedom House*, a non-profit and non-partisan organization, almost 45 percent of 192 countries observed by the organization are free (democracies), 30 percent partly-free states (semi-democracies), and 25 percent are not free. In terms of world population, approximately 40 percent reside in free countries, 23 percent in partly-free ones, and about 36 percent in countries declared not free. Adrain Karatnycky, president of *Freedom House*, points out that although the number of free countries is increasing in general, states of the Islamic world remain undemocratic thus creating a democracy gap.

The Democracy Gap by Adrain Karatnycky

(<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2002/akessay.pdf>)

Islamic World Democracy Deficit by Michael Goldfarb

(<http://www.freedomhouse.org/media/pressrel/121801.htm>)

Worsening Conditions for Democracy in Central Asia by Michael Goldfarb

(<http://www.freedomhouse.org/media/pressrel/081202.htm>)

Freedom House Report 2001-2001

(<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2002/essays.htm>)

Democratic Development in East Asia

Freedom House views 20 percent of the forty-six countries comprising Asia as democracies, categorizes 26 percent as partly free and more than half of the region's countries as not free. The democratic countries are Cyprus, India, Israel, Japan, Mongolia, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Taiwan. According to the report, Cyprus, Japan and Taiwan are Asia's most democratic countries even outperforming the European Union member state of Greece.

Freedom House Country Rating 2001-2002

(<http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2001/table1.htm>)