

State Coercion and Social Movements: Legacy of Authoritarian Regime

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Abstract : This paper aims to examine the meaning of 'state' as a monopoly of violence, in regard with South Korean democratic transition. Since institutional democratization in 1987, it is conventionally known that governmental authority has exercised its power through law and police force, rather than inclusive or private violence. In other words, 1987 pro-democracy movement has been a critical juncture for a step towards democratic consolidation. However, state coercion may continually be exerted despite institutional specification by law in South Korean context. Explicit case would be amendment of 'the Law on Assembly and Demonstration' which determines citizens' right to take collective action mostly against government actions. This paper investigates amendment process of the law along with social reality since 1987 until 2015 to see how effectively institutionalization has progressed.

Keywords : democratic transition, historical institutionalism, state coercion, the law on Assembly and Demonstration

Conference Title : ICPSIR 2018 : International Conference on Political Science and International Relations

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : January 18-19, 2018