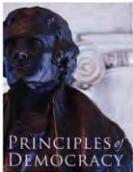


## SPOTLIGHT ON DEMOCRACY

On March 7, Iraqis voted in an election process marking another milestone in Iraq's transition to democracy. This issue of *IRC Reporter* highlights publications that outline the principles of democracy. Critical issues discussed include elections and the transfer of power, rule of law, governance, corruption, freedom of information, public-private cooperation, and the rights and responsibilities of an informed and engaged citizenry.

Click on the [blue addresses](#) to access the online versions of publications.

### PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY



This book explains fundamental principles that contribute to making a democratic government work effectively. This series of one-page primers

provides a concise definition of democracy and expands on supporting elements such as good governance and the rights and responsibilities of people in democracies.

[Overview: What is Democracy?](#)

[Majority Rule, Minority Rights](#)

[Civil-Military Relations](#)

[Political Parties](#)

[Citizen Responsibilities](#)

[A Free Press](#)

[Federalism](#)

[Rule of Law](#)

[Human Rights](#)

[Executive Power](#)

[Legislative Power](#)

[An Independent Judiciary](#)

[Constitutionalism](#)

[Freedom of Speech](#)

[Government Accountability](#)

[Free and Fair Elections](#)

[Freedom of Religion](#)

[The Rights of Women and Girls](#)

[Governing by Coalitions and Compromise](#)

[Role of Nongovernmental Organizations](#)

[Education and Democracy](#)

[Ideas](#) | [Answers](#) | [Connections](#) | [Skills](#)

### INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

[Strengthening Iraqi-American Relations  
Through Information Sharing](#)

The **Information Resource Center (IRC)** of the US Embassy Baghdad provides relevant, authoritative and useful information to Iraqis about United States policies, culture, business and research.

The *IRC Reporter* is a monthly thematic publication published by the IRC. It features current articles and information products organized around a specific issue of importance to Iraq.

### IRAQ ELECTION ARTICLES

[Iraqis in America Proud to Vote](#)



[Statement by President Obama on  
Iraqi Parliamentary Election](#)

[Obama: Iraqi Election "Important  
Milestone"](#)

### MORE THAN ELECTIONS: HOW DEMOCRACIES TRANSFER POWER

Democracy requires more than holding elections. This *eJournal* describes how healthy democracies are defined by the expectations of citizens and the common rules, understandings, and trust they build.

[More Than Elections](#)

[Ingredients of a Resilient Democracy](#)

[The Lasting Impact of Digital Media on  
Civil Society](#)

[Democracy's Rhetoric of Defeat](#)

[Civil Society, Democracy, and Elections](#)

[The 2008-2009 U. S. Presidential](#)

[Transition: Successful Cooperation](#)

[Hoover to Roosevelt: Transition in a](#)

[Time of Crisis](#)

[How a Partially Free Election Altered](#)

[Poland](#)

[Authoritarian Rule to European Union:](#)

[Romania and Moldova](#)

["Serbian Autumn" Delayed: A Lesson in](#)

[Uncivil Democracy-Building](#)

### TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CORRUPTION

This *eJournal* highlights the important roles that the public sector, private sector, and non-governmental organizations play in eradicating corruption worldwide.

[Principled Responsibility](#)

[Addressing Corruption Via International  
Treaties and Commitments](#)

[Combating Kleptocracy](#)

[Shedding Light on Corruption](#)

[Effective Anticorruption Approaches](#)

[The Costs of Corruption](#)

[Promoting Global Corporate](#)

[Transparency](#)

[Civil Society's Role in Securing Effective  
and Sustainable Reform](#)

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## JAZZ, POETRY & EARTH

### April is Jazz Appreciation Month



**Jazz music** is one of America's original art forms and is considered one of the most globally recognized U.S. exports. Jazz emerged in New Orleans around 1900 and became the anthem for the first well-defined American youth culture.

[Popular Jazz and Swing: America's Original Art Form](#)

[Cool Jazz and the Cold War](#)

[Today's Voice of Jazz](#)

[Jazz in America](#)

[Jazz, A Film by Ken Burns](#)

[NEA Jazz in the Schools](#)

[Jazz Performers](#) (photo gallery)

### April is National Poetry Month



**Slam poetry**, part of a tradition of spoken performance in the United States, is driven by poets of diverse backgrounds who see it as a tool of free expression.

[Iraqi, American Poetry Reading Bridges Cultural Divides](#)

[Poetry as Oral Art Form Builds on Popularity of Slam Poetry, Rap](#)

### 22 April is Earth Day



[Obama's Video Message on 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day](#)

## SPOTLIGHT ON DEMOCRACY

### THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



This book illustrated publication includes the complete text of the U.S. Constitution

(preamble, seven articles, and 27 amendments). The introduction includes sections explaining how the Constitution set up the U.S. federal system, the background to the Constitutional Convention and how the participants arrived at a final version, its ratification, and sections on the call for a Bill of Rights.

[Preface](#)

[Supreme Law of the Land](#)

[The Need for the Constitution](#)

[The Constitutional Convention](#)

[Ratifying the Constitution](#)

[Bill of Rights](#)

[The Development of the Constitution](#)

[Constitution of USA, Annotated](#)

[Amendments to the Constitution](#)

### HOW THE U.S. IS GOVERNED



The book "How the United States Is Governed" describes how federal, state, and local governments are elected, how they

operate, and how the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government relate under the U.S. constitutional system.

[Overview of National, State, and Local Governments in the United States Similarities, Differences Between the U.S. and Other Major Democracies](#)

[The Federal Government](#)

[State Governments](#)

[Local Government](#)

[Elections and the Electoral Process](#)

[Nongovernmental Organizations and](#)

[Institutions that Influence Public](#)

[Policy](#)

[Funding Government in the United States](#)

### RULE OF LAW RESOURCES



#### Outline of the U.S. Legal System

**Book:** Covers the history and organization of the federal and state judicial systems

#### The U.S. Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law

**eJournal:** A collection of essays that explain how the Court functions.

#### Anatomy of a Jury Trial

**eJournal:** Juries prevent government, even democratic government, from pursuing oppressive prosecutions.

#### U.S. Human Rights Report Has Far-Reaching Impact

**Article:** The report is "a baseline of information about what's going on in human rights every year."

### SHARE

Feel free to share this publication with your colleagues and friends. It is also available on the Embassy website.

### USEFUL LINKS

- **US Embassy Baghdad Website:** [iraq.usembassy.gov](http://iraq.usembassy.gov)  
  
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- [Scholarships & Exchanges](#)  
- [Visas](#)
- **US Embassy on Facebook**
- **Information Resource Center Email:** [irc-baghdad@state.gov](mailto:irc-baghdad@state.gov)
- **America.gov**