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Title: Democracy and Markets: Notes on a Twenty-first Century Paradox

Abstract: The winds of global change have been widely seen to favor the simultaneous advance of both democracy and markets for more than two decades – indeed since Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter wrote their pioneering work on democratic transitions – and many analysts have assumed that the dynamics of liberal political and economic change tend to reinforce one another, but I offer an alternative perspective. The assumption that markets and democracy necessarily march together has long been subject to debate and qualification, but recent developments in which markets have sharply reduced the space for democratic decision-making have rendered increasingly questionable that felicitous presumption. Drawing inspiration from the path-opening work of O'Donnell which theorized reasons why capitalist economic development and democracy are not *necessarily* mutually reinforcing and from O'Donnell's work on the state and legal infrastructure required for democratic resilience, I examine recent episodes in the erosion of democracy, especially in Europe, and offer tentative theoretical lessons to be drawn.