

Reading Notes----Week 1
Student1

The rising and development of NGOs/Civil Society is a process of power segmentation and shifting. Computer, telecommunication and information technology play the crucial roles for the power diffusion from states to non-state actors. Government's monopoly is broken by people's perceptions of community, which are built up by much faster information exchange.

NGOs push around the governments by

1. Breeding new ideas, advocating, protesting, and mobilizing public support.
2. Do legal, scientific, and technical and policy analysis/ provide services.
3. Shape, implement, monitor, and enforce national and international commitments
4. Change institutions and norms.

New and developed technology is the fundamental requirement makes all above possible.

Civil Society

-The term as a *return* to mutuality in political and social arrangements, and as the third force through which the traditional hierarchy of state and subject can be unseated.

-*Processes*, through which individuals negotiate, argue, struggle against or agree with each other and with the centers of political and economic authority.

- rule governed society/ consent of individuals/ social contract among individual

Advantages to the society by this power shifting

1. NGOs are able to provide quicker response to new demands and opportunities than the government. (I think this function is more realistic for grassroots organizations or community level groups to give response to small social events).
2. Outperform the government to provide and deliver more detailed or specific public services to different groups of people.
3. Deal with the soft threats or slowly accumulated effects on both individuals and the whole society (environmental degradation, denial of human rights, population growth, poverty, lack of development)
4. Provide more expertise on global level/ globalization
5. Spread of democracy

However, the continuing diffusion of power shifting means more conflicts and less problem solving (still hold question on this point)

Spaces NGOs' function cannot reach

1. States are always the only non-voluntary political unit can impose order
2. States is the only one to invest with tax.