

ABSTRACT

DEMOCRACY IN EL SALVADOR SINCE THE 1992 PEACE ACCORDS

El Salvador recently emerged from two decades of civil war and installed a more democratic form of government. The study analyzes elections in El Salvador since the Chapultepec Peace Accords in 1992 to the presidential election of 2004. The survey examines literature dealing with democracy, transitions to democracy, and democratic consolidation. Historical, governmental, and U.S. influence is examined within the context of the democratic transformation. Voting patterns, political parties, and human rights protections are also explored in considering the country's development toward a consolidated democracy.

This research revealed a tremendous national healing has taken place in El Salvador – a country that has put aside fighting and armed force to achieve change and voluntarily move toward democratic processes. Former combatants have put aside their weapons and are now the main political parties. The data appear to point to the country being well on its way to consolidating democracy.

Eric Lawrence Smith
May 2005