LITERATURE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

October 4, 2010
LITERATURE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

MICHAEL ARDOVINO, PH.D.

KSC Research Series

ABSTRACT: This document lists academic articles, books and policy papers on transitional justice from the last five years. Academic journals such as the International Journal on Transitional Justice, Journal of Peace Research and Human Rights Quarterly are represented as well as several important books on the topic. This document is broken down into a general section and several geographic sections. Any articles that do not have PDF or HTML links can be obtained via interlibrary loan.
## Table of Contents

**TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE LITERATURE** ...........................................................3

**GENERAL** ........................................................................................................3

**AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN** .............................................................................13

**ASIA** ...........................................................................................................13

**EASTERN EUROPE AND EURASIA** ...............................................................14

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA** .............................................................19

**SUBSAHARAN AFRICA** ..................................................................................21

**LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN** ....................................................26

**WEBSITES** ......................................................................................................30
The literature on transitional justice is extensive and encompasses several academic fields including political science, sociology, law, social work, history and criminal justice. Several journals are devoted exclusively to the topic including the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* and *Human Rights Quarterly*. Other more well known journals such as *Comparative Political Studies* and *Journal of Peace Research* have also published occasional studies while many law schools often include the subject in their law reviews including Stanford and Michigan.


The study of transitional justice also covers all geographic regions with a larger share of publications emerging from Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, regions with more countries that have experienced significant political change over the past thirty years. Regions that are understudied include the Middle East and Afghanistan/Pakistan, a fact that is not surprising since they have only very recently undergone major political liberalization or have yet to do so.

The study of transitional justice also encompasses the examination of specific institutions and practices. The literature reflects that justice can entail more familiar courts, special crimes prosecutors, amnesty and lesser known devices such as lustration, official apologies and truth and reconciliation commissions, perhaps the most famous of these being in South Africa. According to Valjii, all of these institutions attempt to create accountability, truth and some aspect or form of justice when deterring future injustices using some sort of punishment or moral sanction while combating impunity.

In the academic literature, the approach an author usually takes in his or her study of transitional justice is generally comparative with a discussion of two or more countries in one period of time. One example is Olsen, Payne and Reiter’s empirical look at how the political economy affects the application of justice in Argentina, Cambodia, South Africa and other countries. They do so using the

---

Transitional Justice Data Base (TJDB) and conclude that how much a government can spend will affect its ultimate pursuit of the truth\(^3\), a conclusion that is not surprising considering the scarcity of resources in many developing economies.

On the other hand, Park’s piece on international human rights law\(^4\) is more of a descriptive discussion of what transitional justice is and where it is applicable. Most articles and papers tend to fall into a more descriptive or even normative policy approach or into a more academic, empirical approach.

**TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE LITERATURE**

**GENERAL**


---


Linked Full Text

PDF Full Text


PDF Full Text


AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN


ASIA


[PDF Full Text](#)


**EASTERN EUROPE AND EURASIA**


[HTML Full Text](#)


**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**


**SUBSAHARAN AFRICA**


http://www.idea.int/publications/traditional_justice/upload/Traditional_Justice_and_Reconciliation_after_Violent_Conflict.pdf


Full text of document (Link to PDF)


PDF Full Text


**LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN**


(In Portuguese)


[PDF Full Text]


http://www.globality-gmu.net/archives/1789


Full text of document


WEBSITES

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE DATA BASE
http://sites.google.com/site/transitionaljusticedatabas e/ (LINK)

AFRICAN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE RESEARCH NETWORK
http://www.transitionaljustice.org.za/ (LINK)

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
http://www.ictj.net/approaches.asp (LINK)