

## FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

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launch a "10-year housing boom."

The U.S. and Japan, Bergsten concludes, should form a "Group of Two" to stabilize world currencies and form the basis for a new economic order. Americans and Japanese "must either learn to work closely together or they will continually square off in hostile confrontations."

### *Exporting Democracy?*

"Is Democratic Theory for Export?" by Jacques Barzun, in *Ethics and International Affairs* (1987 Annual), 170 East 64th St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

One of the Reagan administration's goals has been to encourage democracy abroad. The National Endowment for Democracy, with a \$15 million budget, was created in 1983 to push this effort.

Can democracy be exported? Barzun, university professor emeritus at Columbia, thinks not. In the first place, democratic institutions differ widely around the world. For example, in Australia the national referendum, and in Holland proportional representation are considered essential. In France, the police are allowed to gather and keep information on ordinary citizens to a much greater degree than in the United States.

Second, Barzun argues, democracy, whatever its form, "cannot be promoted from outside." Rather, a "cluster of disparate elements and conditions" which may include literacy, a common language, and common traditions, must develop internally. Then a people must learn democratic behavior for themselves. Democratic principles imposed from above will fail to take root. In Africa and Asia, many of Europe's former colonies have not formed democratic regimes because they were "let go" by their colonial rulers too soon. They had not yet learned "the ways of freedom."

Troubles within democracy further cloud its appeal elsewhere. Barzun argues that in the West, recent popular demands for equality conflict with democratic freedoms. "Freedom calls for a government that governs least; equality for a government that governs most," says Barzun. Ultimately the quest for equality leads to a "conflict of claims [and] a division of the body politic." In some cases, demands for equal rights lead to separatist movements (such as that of the Basques in Spain) within long-established states.

Because democracy is so complex, Barzun says, "the parts of the machine are not detachable" for export. Americans, he concludes, "cannot by any conceivable means" teach other countries democratic ways.

### *Beyond Hiroshima*

"Third-Generation Nuclear Weapons" by Theodore B. Taylor, in *Scientific American* (Apr. 1987), 415 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

In 1945, the first generation of atomic weapons was introduced—fission bombs that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 1949 U.S. test explosions at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific signaled the introduction of a second generation of nuclear weapons—fusion or "thermonuclear" hydrogen