

ABSTRACT

PRESSURE STRUGGLES BEHIND ELECTIONS AND COUPS: MADAGASCAR'S 2001-2002 AND 2009 DEMOCRATIZATION CRISES IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Jérôme Bachelard, PhD student Inst

Geneva

Democratization in Africa is a stop and go process. The Kenyan case reminds us that even after a democratic turnover, subsequent elections may still be fraudulent and violent. While extensive literature exists on democratization, very few studies have focused on transition periods to thoroughly examine the domestic and international forces at work behind the scenes. What makes an election free and fair, or a coup successful? Based on field interviews in Madagascar, this article compares the crisis that followed Ratsiraka's manipulation of the 2001 elections with Rajoelina's 2009 military coup. The analysis explains the relative absence in 2009 of the strong pro-democratic coalition that Ratsiraka faced in 2001, and highlights the major impact of the international counter-pressures to democracy in both crises.