

# Criminological Analysis of the Law on Combating the Smuggling of Goods and Foreign Exchange

Mohammad Yousef. Karimi<sup>1</sup>, Rashin. Ziya<sup>1</sup>, Abbas Ali. Akbari<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, Ta.C., Islamic Azad University, Tabriz, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: dr.akbari@iaut.ir

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<b>EDITOR:</b> Tahereh Ebrahimifar Head of Sociology Department, Faculty of Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. Email: Tah.Ebrahimifar@iauctb.ac.ir			
<b>REVIEWER 1:</b> Shehzad Raj School of Law, Universiti Geomatika Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Email: shehzadraj@geomatika.edu.my			
<b>REVIEWER 2:</b> Pinar Reisoglu Faculty of Social Sciences, Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Rize, Turkey. Email: pinarreisoglu@erdogan.edu.tr			

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The opening sentence, “Democracy has consistently been regarded as one of the most complex and contested social concepts throughout history,” lacks scholarly citation. Please substantiate this foundational assertion with references to canonical works in democratic theory, such as Dahl (1989), Held (2006), or Beetham (1999).

The phrase “history has shown that democratic governments can, over time, degenerate into authoritarian regimes” is a powerful point that requires specific historical support. Consider referencing Weimar Germany, Venezuela, or Hungary.

The authors list four features of the modern state. To enrich this, compare these with characteristics of pre-modern or absolutist states. For example, discuss sovereignty and institutionalization differences.

The claim “pluralism emerges, democracy evolves, and the democratic state is reconstituted” is theoretically rich but vague. Please explain how pluralism acts as a reconstitutive force with specific examples—perhaps post-Apartheid South Africa or post-Franco Spain.

The mention of the “tyranny of the majority” is critical but under-contextualized. Please elaborate on how democratic systems prevent this—e.g., via constitutional rights, judicial review, or bicameralism.

The article oscillates between normative and descriptive language. Consider delineating between what democracy is (descriptive) versus what it ought to be (normative) to avoid conflation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The claim that “Aristotle was the first to systematically defend democracy” is factually incorrect. Aristotle’s *Politics* classifies democracy as a deviant form of government. You may revise this to note that he analyzed it in-depth but was more favorable toward polity (mixed government).

When outlining minimalist and maximalist definitions of democracy, the manuscript does not provide concrete empirical illustrations. For better clarity, please include examples such as Schumpeter’s electoral model vs. deliberative or participatory models from contemporary democratic theory.

The discussion of civil society’s role in democracy is strong, but overly generalized. It would benefit from a comparative analysis of civil society’s function in consolidated democracies (e.g., Sweden) versus hybrid or authoritarian regimes (e.g., Russia or Turkey).

The phrase “Civil societies rooted in democracy... serve as breeding grounds for scientific and artistic advancement” is idealistic. This should be tempered with recognition that such outcomes are contingent on many variables, including education, stability, and economic resources.

The sentence “Democratization does not hinge solely on levels of public education or healthcare” opens the door to a deeper institutional analysis. Please briefly outline other factors such as the role of free press, rule of law, or independent electoral commissions.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.