Procedural definition of democracy: “A modern nation-state has a democratic political system to the extent that its most powerful decision makers are selected through fair, honest, periodic elections in which candidates freely compete for votes and in which virtually the entire adult population is eligible to vote” (Huntington 1997: 6)

The literature on the third wave offers a number of general propositions about factors facilitating and obstructing democratization. The following are most notable (Shin 1994: 151):

1. There are few preconditions for the emergence of democracy.
2. No single factor is sufficient or necessary to the emergence of democracy.
3. The emergence of democracy in a country is a result of a combination of causes.
4. The causes responsible for the emergence of democracy are not the same as those promoting its consolidation.
5. The combination of causes promoting democratic transition and consolidation varies from country to country.
6. The combination of causes generally responsible for one wave of democratization differs from those responsible for other waves.