

***THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES
PROGRAM***



***GLOBAL TRENDS IN THINK TANKS
AND
POLICY ADVICE***

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The Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program- TTCSP

“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

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THINK TANKS AND THE TRANSNATIONALIZATION OF IDEAS AND INFLUENCE

The growth of public policy research organizations, or think tanks, over the last few decades has been nothing less than explosive. Not only have these organizations increased in number, but the scope and impact of their work has expanded dramatically. This past decade, however, has shown a marked decrease in the rate of establishment of new think tanks. Still, the potential of think tanks to support and sustain democratic governments and civil societies around the world is far from exhausted. Governmental and individual policymakers throughout the developed and developing world face the common problem of bringing expert knowledge to bear in governmental decision-making. The challenge is to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information, and associational energy that exist in public policy research organizations in every region of the world.

The breadth and scope of this reservoir has expanded considerably since the 1990s as these think tanks have responded to the need of policymakers and the general public for information that is useful, reliable, accessible, and understandable. Although this need has been an inherent dynamic of the policymaking process, the forces of globalization have fostered and markedly accelerated the growth of independent think tanks, due to those institutions' unique ability to strengthen the research-policy bridge and thus facilitate the effectiveness of the policymaking process. In this effort, they have proliferated, grown in size, and solidified their position as integral contributors to the policymaking process, and developed and strengthened ties with other nongovernmental and research organizations through the establishment of state, regional and international networks. In recognition of the increased role, number, and position of think tanks, as well as the fact that think tanks have received less attention from scholars relative to environment, development, education and social service oriented NGOs, this report focuses on the role of these institutions, as well as their role in regional and global networks, in order to illustrate the value and utility of think tanks to policymakers and the public at the regional and global level.

WHAT IS A THINK TANK?

Think tanks or public-policy research institutions are organizations that generate policy-oriented research, analysis, and advice on domestic and international issues that enables policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy issues. Think tanks may be affiliated or independent institutions and are structured as permanent bodies, not ad hoc commissions. These institutions often act as a bridge between the academic and policymaking communities, serving in the public interest as an independent voice that translates applied and basic research into a language and form that is understandable, reliable, and accessible for policymakers and the public. (Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US, Routledge 2007)

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2007 GLOBAL SURVEY OF THINK TANKS FACT SHEET

The challenge for the new millennium is to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information, and associational energy that exist in public policy research organizations in every region of the world for public good.

Think Tank Definition

Think tanks or public policy research, analysis and engagement institutions are organizations that generate policy-oriented research, analysis and advice on domestic and international issues that enables policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy. (McGann 2006)

Global Overview

There are 5080 think tanks in the world

- Africa 274 (5.39%)
- Latin America 408 (8.03%)
- Western Europe 1198 (23.58%)
- Eastern Europe 483 (9.51%)
- Asia 601 (11.83%)
- Middle East 192 (3.77%)
- North America 1924 (37.79%)

United States

There are 1776 think tanks in the US

- 91% created since 1951
- More think tanks since 1970 than the previous 50 years
- 58% established in the last 25 years
- Number has more than doubled since 1980
- 31% 1981-1990---End of Post WWII consensus & Challenge to the Welfare State
- Most of the think tanks that have come into existence in the US since the 1970s are specialized
- About 1/5 or approximately 350 of the think tanks are located in Washington, DC
- More than 1/2 are university affiliated
- Number of think tanks declined over the last 7 years

Reasons for the Growth of Think Tanks

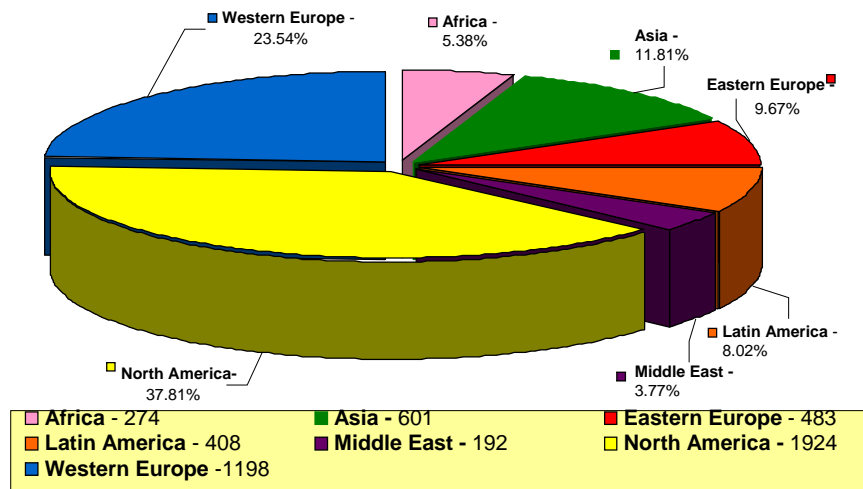
- Information revolution
- End of government monopoly on information
- Complexity and technical nature of policy problems
- Size of government and crisis in confidence in government officials
- Globalization and the growth of state and non state actors

- Need for timely and concise information and analysis “in the right form at the right time”

Reasons for the Decline in Number of Think Tanks Being Established Worldwide

- Political and regulatory environment hostile to think tanks and NGOs
- Changes in funding priorities by major public and private donors
- Underdeveloped institutional capacity
- Advocacy organizations, for profit consulting firms and electronic media are replacing some think tanks
- Donors funded short term projects and programs instead of strengthening capacity and building institutions
- Institutions have served their purpose and have discontinued their operations

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF THINK TANKS BY REGION



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GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF THINK TANKS BY COUNTRY

Africa		Asia		Eastern Europe		Latin America		Middle East		North America	
Angola	3	Afghanistan	5	Albania	9	Antigua & Barbuda	0	Algeria	4	Canada	94
Benin	4	Australia	26	Armenia	7	Argentina	100	Bahrain	2	Mexico	54
Botswana	3	Bangladesh	34	Azerbaijan	7	Bahamas	1	Cyprus	6	United States	1402
Burkina Faso	10	Bhutan	1	Belarus	6	Barbados	2	Egypt	21	Washington D.C.	374
Burundi	6	Brunei	0	Bosnia & Herzegovina	3	Belize	0	Iran	11		
Cameroon	10	Cambodia	8	Bulgaria	28	Bermuda	1	Iraq	14	Region Total:	1924
Cape Verde	1	China	73	Croatia	10	Bolivia	27	Israel	35		
Central African Rep	1	Fiji	1	Czech Republic	23	Brazil	38	Jordan	9		
Chad	3	Hong Kong	29	Estonia	9	Chile	30	Kuwait	8		
Comoros	0	India	122	Georgia	7	Colombia	24	Lebanon	11		
Congo	1	Indonesia	19	Hungary	30	Costa Rica	32	Libya	0		
Congo, D.R.	4	Japan	103	Kazakhstan	7	Cuba	11	Morocco	9		
Côte d'Ivoire	4	Kiribati	0	Kyrgyzstan	5	Dominica	2	Oman	0		
Djibouti	0	Laos	2	Latvia	8	Dominican Rep	13	Palestine	17		
Equatorial Guinea	0	Malaysia	16	Lithuania	10	Ecuador	12	Qatar	0		
Eritrea	3	Maldives	6	Macedonia (FYR)	10	El Salvador	12	Saudi Arabia	3		
Ethiopia	16	Marshall Islands	0	Moldova	2	Grenada	1	Syria	4		
Gabon	1	Micronesia	0	Montenegro	3	Guadeloupe	4	Tunisia	8		
Gambia	5	Mongolia	3	Poland	35	Guatemala	10	Turkey	19		
Ghana	17	Myanmar	0	Romania	50	Guyana	1	U.A.E	4		
Guinea	1	Nauru	0	Russia	104	Haiti	2	Yemen	7		
Guinea-Bissau	0	Nepal	12	Serbia	20	Honduras	5				
Kenya	26	New Zealand	6	Slovakia	11	Jamaica	4				
Lesotho	1	North Korea	2	Slovenia	32	Nicaragua	8				
Liberia	2	Pakistan	15	Tajikistan	1	Panama	9				
Madagascar	1	Palau	0	Turkmenistan	0	Paraguay	6				
Malawi	4	Papua New Guinea	2	Ukraine	43	Peru	21				
Mali	6	Philippines	13	Uzbekistan	3	Puerto Rico	5				
Mauritania	0	Samoa	1			St.Kitts-Nevis	1				
Mauritius	2	Singapore	6			St.Lucia	1				
Mozambique	2	Solomon Islands	0			St.Vincent	1				
Namibia	6	South Korea	29			Suriname	0				
Niger	1	Sri Lanka	14			Trinidad & Tobago	7				
Nigeria	27	Taiwan	36			Uruguay	8				
Rwanda	1	Thailand	8			Venezuela	9				
Sao Tome & Principe	0	Tonga	0								
Senegal	11	Tuvalu	0								
Seychelles	1	Vanuatu	0								
Sierra Leone	1	Vietnam	9								
Somalia	2										
South Africa	47										
Sudan	1										
Swaziland	0										
Tanzania	6										
Togo	4										
Uganda	9										
Zambia	6										
Zimbabwe	14										
Region Total:	274	Region Total:	601	Region Total:	483	Region Total:	408	Region Total:	192	Region Total:	1198
World Total		5080									

Western Europe	
Andorra	1
Austria	36
Belgium	49
Denmark	30
Finland	26
France	162
Germany	187
Greece	28
Iceland	7
Ireland	14
Italy	87
Liechtenstein	2
Luxembourg	3
Malta	4
Monaco	0
Netherlands	54
Norway	15
Portugal	19
San Marino	0
Spain	49
Sweden	69
Switzerland	72
United Kingdom	283
Vatican City	1

In the interdependent world of the 21st century, direct communication between societies in the form of economic exchange, investment, mobility of people, transfer of ideas and knowledge have become as important as classical state-to-state governmental relations. If a minimum of global governance is to be achieved, societies have to communicate directly on ways and means to reconcile openness with control and stability. Think tanks will play an increasingly crucial role in contributing to this process by providing ideas and by contributing to a global network of knowledge transfer.

-- **Karl Kaiser**, Otto-Wolff-Director of the Research Institute of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

2007 Trends in Think Tanks and Policy Advice

MAJOR FINDINGS

Think tanks have become more active players in domestic and foreign policy in the last two decades and are now present in 169 countries. While the largest concentration of think tanks continue to be in the US and Western Europe, several factors are driving the growth of think tanks in other areas of the world.

- 1) Democratization
Democratization has opened more political space to establish think tanks, while political and economic reform has created a demand for developing more detailed policies and regulations.
- 2) Demands for independent information and analysis
More governments, facing increased pressure to improve economic and bureaucratic performance, appear to be turning to think tanks for evidence and independent advice. Government officials at all levels are asked to make decisions that are informed by research and data.
- 3) Growth of international actors
The proliferation of state and non-state actors such as NGOs and IGOs, foundations and interest groups have created more support and demand for think tanks.
- 4) Technology & communication advances
Better and cheaper technology have made it much easier for think tanks to operate and publicize their work. The Internet has made it much easier for even small think tanks with limited financial resources to conduct more extensive research, and organizations can use websites to share their

agendas and findings outside traditional communication channels. These changes have helped extend the reach and impact of think tanks.

5) Globalization of NGO funding

Governments, foundations and interest groups are becoming more active and diverse in supporting policy oriented research and analysis by think tanks across most regions of the world.

6) More open debate about government decision making

Interest groups and public citizens are less deferential to allowing governments to monopolize decision making, which has put a premium on more open discussion of issues and policy options. Key players are less likely to accept government information and rationales, creating a demand for more independent sources of analysis. Global policy and advocacy networks have increased the power and influence of these organizations.

7) More complex and high pressure issues

Think tanks can sometimes be more flexible and adept than governments at addressing high-profile, sensitive, cross-cutting issues under severe time constraints. Sometimes governments actively seek input from think tanks to help facilitate more efficient decision making on controversial topics, or even when their ideas are not formally sought, think tanks can be in a position to produce policy options that are more publicly accessible, pithier and available more quickly than those generated by a more complex official government inter-agency process.

8) Going Global

Think tanks are increasingly adopting a global presence, perspective and audience. The economist George Stiglitz commented that think tanks must “scan globally and act locally” if they are to be effective in today’s policy environment. This trend is driven, in part, by transnational issues such as global warming, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, pandemics and terrorism. A number of global think tanks (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the International Crisis Group) have emerged in recent years which are designed to address global issues and serve a global audience of policymakers.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

While all think tanks perform the same basic function -- i.e., to bring knowledge and expertise to bear on the policy-making process -- not all think tanks have the same degree of financial, intellectual and legal independence. There is also deal of regional variation in the number, experience, depth and focus of think tanks.

Western Europe

Western Europe has the most developed and largest number of think tanks outside the United States. While think tanks in Europe are numerous they are not very diverse. Many remain formally linked to political parties. Until recently most think tanks operated as adjuncts to political parties but major changes have taken place sparked in part by creation of independent think tanks in Eastern and Central Europe. Most of these think tanks focus on European integration, US-European transatlantic relations, or topical issues such as climate change; in recent years, many of the top European think tanks have expanded work on democratization and nation-building in the developing world. Just a few have the breadth to track a wide range of economic, political and security issues from a global perspective. European think tanks have enjoyed better access to policymakers than many counterparts elsewhere in the world, although some now are attempting to reach out to even wider audiences in business, the media and citizens to participate in the public debate. Ironically, very few institutions in Europe are organized to conduct research on issues facing the European Union as a whole but rather approach these issues from a state-centric perspective.

Central and Eastern Europe

Eastern European think tanks have emerged more recently—often with the assistance of outside organizations—primarily with an aim at institutionalizing economic and political reforms at home. A vibrant and innovative community of think tanks now exist in this region which are sharing their experiences with emerging think tanks in the Balkans and Eurasia. Issues of independence, capacity and sustainability are challenging these institutions as political tides shift and they move from start-up organizations to established institutions in post communist societies. Much of the focus has shifted away from international donors as means of support to national and regional (EU and NATO) sources of support.

Russian Federation

Several prominent and well established Russian think tanks that date back to the Cold War days that survived the transition are still active today. In the post communist period a new group of think tanks emerged with a new generation of scholars. A highly educated cadre of researchers and increasingly stable economic conditions make for a conducive environment for think tanks to operate. Unfortunately, the opening and independence of the 1990s has faded in the face of more active and centralized government decision making on economic, political, and foreign policy issues. Vladimir Putin's use of legal and extralegal means to limit the role and influence of think tanks has served to stifle independent analysis in Russia. So the positive developments are offset by the significant constraints placed on the funding and operation of NGOs. In addition, the decline in Western financial support for think tanks is having a negative impact on the younger and more independent thinking policy research organizations. In addition, non-governmental indigenous support is not rising at a

rate fast enough to make up for the loss of public and private support from the West.

Asia

Asian think tanks often focus on economic, strategic and security issues within the region, yet they sometimes are more constrained than their European counterparts because of their close ties to government. Southeast Asian think tanks are at the forefront of efforts to build stronger regional networks among such research organizations particularly in the areas of economics and security. Public policy research organizations have grown quite rapidly and are now playing a significant role in public debate and discussion in their respective countries. While many of these organizations started out as governmental or quasi-governmental entities they have slowly moved out of the orbit of government and become independent actors in civil society.

Latin America

Some of the most prominent and long-standing Latin American think tanks focus on development issues, economic policy, human rights and the environment. Domestic security issues such as violent crime and criminal gangs are increasing and many think tanks are coming on-line to address these problems. The think tanks that are focused on security issues often have more links to official government military organizations. Latin America has one of the most stable yet evolving think tank communities in the developing world.

Middle East

The most prominent Middle East think tanks have focused largely on state-to-state security issues within the region over the last several decades. There has been less focus to date on domestic political and economic issues, which can reflect government unease about implicit criticism of policies. The number of independent think tanks has grown in recent years but they tend to have a limited degree of freedom and not much financial or political support.

Africa

African think tanks generally are more limited in number, experience, and resources than their counterparts in other regions, and the focus more often is on domestic issues such as economic development, health (AIDS), policing and crime prevention rather than on regional security and economic issues. The issues of independence, sustainability and intellectual capital flight are prevalent in the region. To address these problems, public and private donors have begun to support efforts to strengthen indigenous research and institutional capacity.

EMERGING ISSUES AND TRENDS

There are a number of issues/trends facing think tanks that have not received as much attention in comparison to other NGOs. Outlined below are a few potential areas of inquiry that I feel require additional research and debate:

- Outputs vs. Impact. Historically think tanks have placed a focus on outputs over impact. How do think tanks measure their impact? For many institutions, it is limited to the numbers of books and policy briefs produced rather than providing the impetus for new legislation or changes in policy. This issue is further complicated by donors who are increasingly interested supporting “high impact” policy research.
- Influence and Independence. As independent think tanks become more established some appear to be losing their voice and independence along the way. Managing the tensions associated with relevance, influence and independence is a delicate balancing act that must be carefully managed if think tanks are to maintain their credibility with policymakers and the public.
- Catalysts for Change. It bears watching to see to what extent think tanks become a prime platform for opposition political players to develop policy alternatives and provide a home for those out of power. How well will the think tanks that were created during the wave of democratization in the late 80’s and 90’s fair when the tide turns in the other direction?
- NGO Push Back. Some governments have been tightening restrictions on foreign support for NGOs operating in their country, which potentially may extend to limit foreign support for think tanks. In addition, registration laws and other bureaucratic measures have been implemented in order to limit the political space in which these groups operate and limit their numbers and influence.
- Phantom NGO Think Tanks Governments are creating think tanks that are designed to appear to be non-governmental organizations but are in fact arms of the government. Likewise, corporations and individuals have established think tanks to promote their special interests. This trend raises concerns about a lack of transparency and private interest masquerading as public interest.
- General vs. Specific Focus. Many prominent think tanks have incentives to move away from general, comprehensive research work to focus on more narrow projects that are geared toward the interests of a specific

patron or interest group, and it will be interesting to track this trend and assess its impact on think tanks and policy advice.

- Hybrids. As think tanks have faced new challenges in the societies in which they operate they have adapted and created hybrid institutions. More and more think tanks are a blend of organizational types (part academic research center, consulting firm, and advocacy group and policy enterprise) and the roles of key staff have changed. Today the staff of think tanks must be comprised of multifaceted individuals who are part scholar, journalist, marketing executive and policy entrepreneur.
- Sustainability and Institutional Capacity. Much of the funding for think tanks in developing and transitional countries has been in the form of start-up grants from international public and private donors that were followed by a series of project specific grants which made it difficult for institutions to develop a strong institutional capacity. In many countries of the world the development of indigenous, non-governmental sources of funding is limited and underdeveloped. Additionally, the seeding of a host of small, specialized think tanks by public and private donors rather than supporting a few multi-purpose, policy oriented, think tanks may prove to be unsustainable over time. What impact will this lack of indigenous support and institutional capacity have on these newly created think tanks and their ability to respond to an array of policy problems facing these countries?
- Partisan vs. Non-partisan. Some think tanks attempt to advance the philosophies of a specific ideological group, while others try to create a space for less partisan explorations of policy alternatives. The public in the US appears to be growing weary of the partisan bickering in Washington, DC and are now expecting policymakers to move from stalemate to action on key policy issues. Those think tanks that have become caught up in this “war of ideas” may find themselves being viewed by the public as part of the problem rather than a credible and constructive force in the policy making process.
- Relevance vs. Rigor. There is a tension that faces all think tanks which must be balanced: the need to produce academic quality research that is understandable and accessible to policymakers and the public.
- Think tank networks. Numerous think tanks are trying to cultivate stronger ties to counterpart organizations within their region and across the world, and it will be interesting to see if these networks coalesce around particular topics, regions, or ideological views.
- Supply vs. Demand. Much of the support for think tanks in developing and transitional countries has been for improving the quality and supply of

policy research not enough emphasis has been placed on how to increasing the appreciation and utilization of policy research by policy makers, the media and the public.

- Impact of the Internet The internet is having a profound impact on think tanks and policy advice as it is for all organizations whose mission is centered on ideas and information. The issues raised by the internet and how it influences the creation, dissemination and discussion of public policy issues are a few areas that require our attention.

CONCLUSIONS

The on-going challenge for think tanks is to produce timely and accessible policy oriented research that effectively engages policymakers, the press and the public on the critical issues facing a country. Gone are the days when a think tank could operated with the motto “research it, write it and they will find it” Today, think tanks must be lean, mean, policy machines. **The Economist** described “good think tanks” as those organizations that are able to combine “intellectual depth, political influence, and flair for publicity, comfortable surroundings, and a streak of eccentricity.” Those who fail to organize and integrate these qualities into their think tank will become known for their “pedantry, irrelevance, obscurity, poverty and conventionality.” Many think tanks have already successfully met this challenge and are now playing a critical role bridging the divide between the academic and policies communities and policy makers and the public.

For all the reasons outlined in this report, the role and importance of independent think tanks will continue to grow. Clearly there is no shortage of policy challenges at the national, regional and global level. The world we live in can be characterized by what someone described as “The Four Mores.” More issues, more actors, more competition and more conflict. Over the last 10-15 governments and civil society groups have come to rely on thinks tanks for ideas and advice and I am confident that this tend will continue well into the future.

Think Tank and Civil Societies Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) examines the role policy institutes play in governments and in civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the '**think tank's think tank,**' TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 20 years the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making and strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program works with some of the leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs. If you would like additional information about our publications and programs contact JM@fpri.org.

James McGann is an FPRI senior fellow and director of its Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program. He is also an assistant professor of Political Science at Villanova University and president and founding partner of McGann Associates, a program and management consulting firm specializing in the challenges facing think tanks, policymakers, international organizations and philanthropic institutions.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank, United Nations, United States Agency for International Development, Soros, Hewlett and Gates Foundations and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in civil society. He has served as the senior vice-president for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the public policy program officer for The Pew Charitable Trusts, the assistant director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, at Harvard University, and a senior advisor to the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

Among Dr. McGann's publications are *Competition for Dollars, Scholars and Influence In The Public Policy Research Industry* (University Press of America 1995), *The International Survey of Think Tanks* (FPRI, 1999), *Think Tanks and Civil Societies: Catalyst for Ideas and Action*, co-edited with Kent B. Weaver (Transaction Publishers 2000), *Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy* (Edward Elgar 2005), *Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the U.S: Academics, Advisors and Advocates* (Routledge, 2007), *Think Tanks Catalysts for Democratization and Development* (Forthcoming) and *Global Trends and Transitions: 2007 Survey of Think Tanks*.

Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US

Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US

Academics, Advisors and Advocates
Routledge Research in American Politics

James G. McGann, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia, USA

This volume chronicles and analyzes the development of think tanks and public policy research organizations, while exploring the impact think tanks have on politics, public policies, and governance in the US.

Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US investigates the distinctive nature of thirty leading think tanks in America, while capturing the political and intellectual ecology of the more than 1,500 think tanks in the US. Presidents from twenty think tanks have contributed insightful essays that examine the role, value, and impact of these organizations on a national and global level. The book examines a range of key factors (partisan politics; growth of liberal and conservative advocacy groups; restrictive funding policies of donors; growth of specialized think tanks; narrow and short-term orientation of Congress and the White House; tyranny of myopic academic disciplines; and the 24/7 cable news networks) which have impacted on the ability of think tanks to provide independent analysis and advice.

This text fills a gap in the available literature and will serve as a valuable reference tool for policy makers, the media, and researchers in the fields of public policy, political science, and American politics more generally.

Twenty essays by the Presidents of some of the leading think tanks in the US are featured in this work:

Christopher DeMuth - President, American Enterprise Institute
Edward P. Djerejian - Founding Director, Baker Institute
Strobe Talbott - President of The Brookings Institution
John Podesta - President and CEO, Center for American Progress
Tim Roemer - President, Center for National Policy
John J. Hamre - President and CEO, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Richard N. Haass - President of the Council on Foreign Relations
Ellen Laipson - President and CEO, Henry L. Stimson Center
Edwin Feulner - President of the Heritage Foundation
John Raisan - Director, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Herbert I. London - President, Hudson Institute
C. Fred Bergsten - Director of the Institute for International Economics
John Cavanagh - Director, Institute for Policy Studies
Togo D. West Jr. - President and CEO, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
John C. Goodman - President, National Center for Policy Analysis
Dimitri K. Symes - Founding President, Nixon Center

David W. Lyon - President and CEO, Public Policy Institute of California

James Thomson - President of the Rand Corporation.

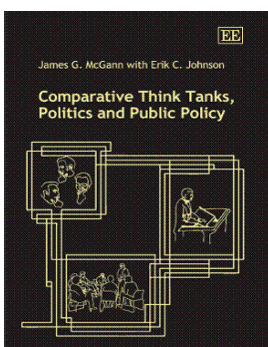
Phillip Sharp - President, Resources for the Future

Robert D. Reischauer - President, Urban Institute

Selected Contents: Introduction 1. Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the United States 2. History of Think Tanks in the United States 3. Think Tanks Defined 4. Marketing, Public Relations and Public Engagement 5. Measuring the Influence of Think Tanks 6. Think Tanks Funding 7. Current Trends Facing Think Tanks 8. Conclusion 9. Recommendations 10. Essays on Value, Role and Impact of Think Tanks Appendix A: U.S. Think Tanks - The Global Context Appendix B: U.S. Think Tanks in Brief

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James G. McGann, Erik C. Johnson, *Comparative Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy*, [Edward Elgar Pub](#), March 2006

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Contents: 1. Introduction 2. Think Tanks and Governance 3. Think Tanks, Politics and Public Policy in the Americas 4. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in Europe 5. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in the Asia Pacific Region 6. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in Africa 7. Comparative Politics and Policy Advice in the Middle East 8. Concluding Remarks 9. Data Appendix

Independent institutes conducting policy research, analysis and public dialogue, or 'think tanks' as they are more commonly known, are one of the leading catalysts for ideas and action in civil societies around the world. Examining the role of think tanks in the policy formulation process, this groundbreaking study provides the first systematically comparative and methodologically rigorous map of such organizations and the social, political, legal and economic conditions that shape their work.

Once found only in advanced industrial democracies, think tanks now provide information and advice for policymakers in countries as diverse as India, Lebanon, Chile, Bulgaria, Germany, Senegal and Thailand. **Using case studies of 20 countries across five regions of the world (Africa, the Middle East, the Americas, Europe and Asia)**, James McGann and Erik Johnson explore how the environments in which think tanks operate serve to expand or constrict their autonomy and influence. They also suggest ways donors, policymakers and international organizations can ensure the viability and sustainability of these important organizations.

With incisive analysis and cogent recommendations for how to seed and sustain independent think tanks around the world, this volume will be of great interest to those involved with think tanks themselves, as well as public policy and political science scholars, international development agencies and policymakers around the world. The Comparative dimensions of the book will have considerable appeal among students of comparative politics, public policy and international affairs.

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