



Civil Society and Good Governance

KEYWORDS

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What is civil society ? Civil society is a concept located strategically at the cross-section of important strands of intellectual developments in the social sciences. To take account of the diversity of the concept, CCS adopted an initial working definition that is meant to guide research activities and teaching, but is by no means to be interpreted as a rigid statement.

Civil society refers to the arena of uncoerced collective action around shared interests. Purposes and values. In theory, its institutional forms are distinct from those of the state, family and market, though in practice, the boundaries between state, civil society, family and market are often complex, blurred and negotiated. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by organisations such as registered charities, development non governmental organisations, community groups, women's organisations, faith-based organisations, professional association trades unions, self-help groups, social movements, business association, coalitions and advocacy group.

The aim of this work to suggest a conceptual strategy for transforming the hope that civil society might contribute to good governance into a set of discrete propositions about how the associational structures of civil society relate to good governance. Here provide a brief history of the normative uses to which the concept of civil society has been put. Of most importance here, on my view, is the strong conceptual association between the notion of civil society and self-governance through voluntary relations of association. The concept of civil society based on a tripartite distinction between market, legal coercion, and association.

The constitutes the "good" of good governance, and distinguish among several complementary possibilities. In a modern, pluralistic, and complex society democracy depends upon a number of associational contributions, including those that develop the capacities of citizens, enable public judgments, and underwrite democratic institutions such as representation. Develop a set of structural distinctions that bear on the capacities of various associational relations within civil society to contribute to one or more of these dimensions of good governance.