

# Review of: "Free Speech Regimes and Democratic Cooperation"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The author offers a promising framework for explaining conflict in the rhetoric and discourse among conservative and liberal political actors, by distinguishing conceptually a left vs. right 'victim regime' in contrast as well to procedural rights regimes. However, the empirical work of the author fails to substantively demonstrate the utility of these conceptions. First of all, their discussion of media content would not be publishable ordinarily as it is likely to suffer from selection bias without having been gathered or analyzed systematically; this section would need major revision if seeking to present original data. Otherwise, the author should rely on secondary literature on the matter. Secondly, the case discussions likewise do not convincingly demonstrate the utility or application of the conceptual framework. For example, categorizing Japan as a procedural rights regime with respect to atrocities committed during the Second World War occludes active state-led historical revisionism. Finally, a more minor but important point, the case selection would have needed to be better constructed and justified beyond considering OECD member countries as shorthand for "economically advanced" and "democratically mature"--there are better available measures for both concepts.