



# 2008 Global Go To Think Tanks

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## Global go-to Think Tanks: What works where?



**The Think Tanks &  
Civil Societies Program  
TTCSP**

**Researching the trends and challenges facing think tanks, policymakers, and policy-oriented civil society groups...**

**Sustaining, strengthening, and building capacity for think tanks around the world.**

**Maintaining the largest, most comprehensive global database of think tanks....**

# What is a Think Tank?

- Definition
- Classification
- Qualification
- Role
- Recent Trends
- Regional Profiles
  - Middle East and North Africa
  - East, West and Southern Africa
    - Country Profile: Kenya
  - Southeast and South Asia
    - Country Profile: China
  - Latin America
    - Country Profile: Argentina



# Motivation behind the Rankings

- Policymakers often have too much information, but do not have the tools to indentify high-quality information and analysis on critical policy issues.
- The ranking system acts as a guide for policymakers when they are in need of this information so they can identify which organization they should “go to”



# Definition

*Think tanks are public policy research, analysis and engagement institutions that generate policy-oriented research, analysis and advice on domestic and international issues that enable policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy issues.*



# Classification

- Geographic
  - National/Regional vs. Global
- Political Affiliation
  - Independent, bipartisan etc
- Ideology
  - Left, Right, Center
- Focus
  - Health Policy, Foreign Policy, Security...



# Qualifications for a Think Tank

- Adequate Budget and Funding
- Research is at least 30% of overall function
- May be involved in Advocacy
  - Affiliated with NGO's, non-profits
- Publications
  - Journals, articles, books etc



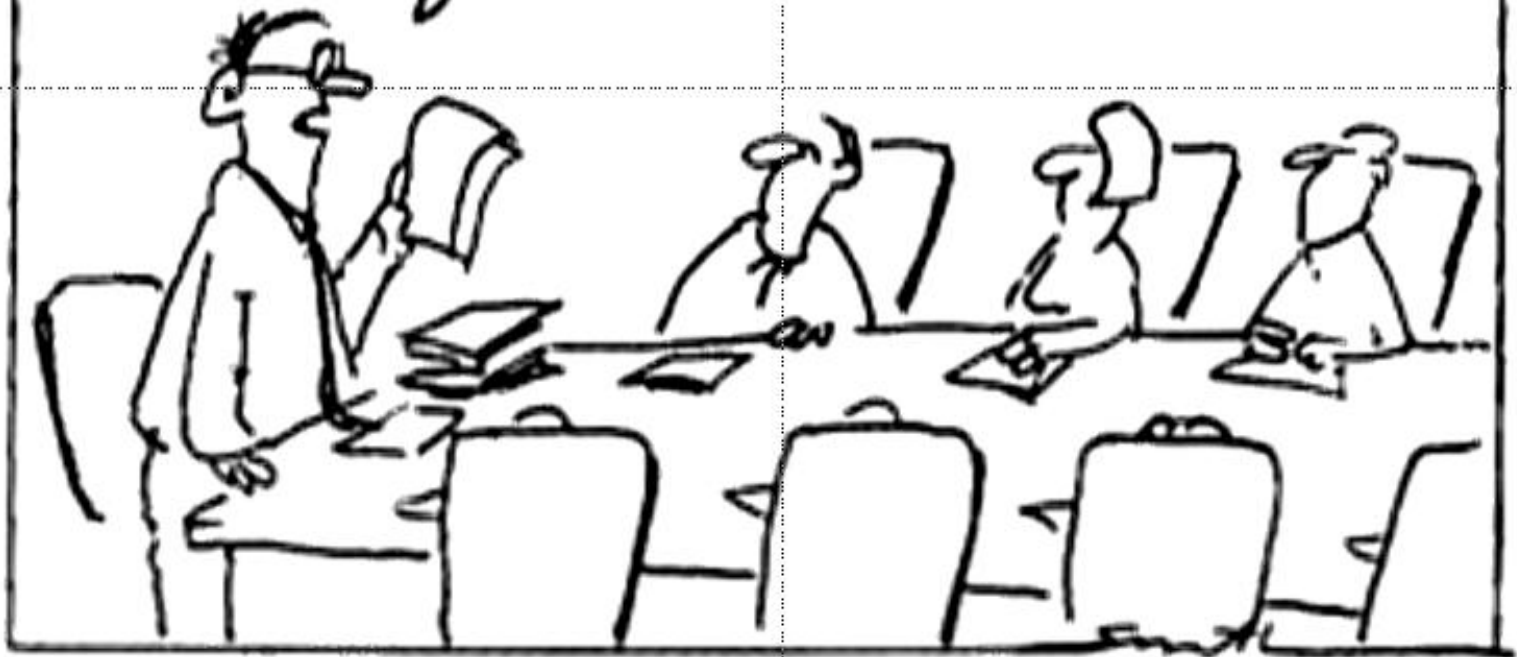


# Role of Think Tanks

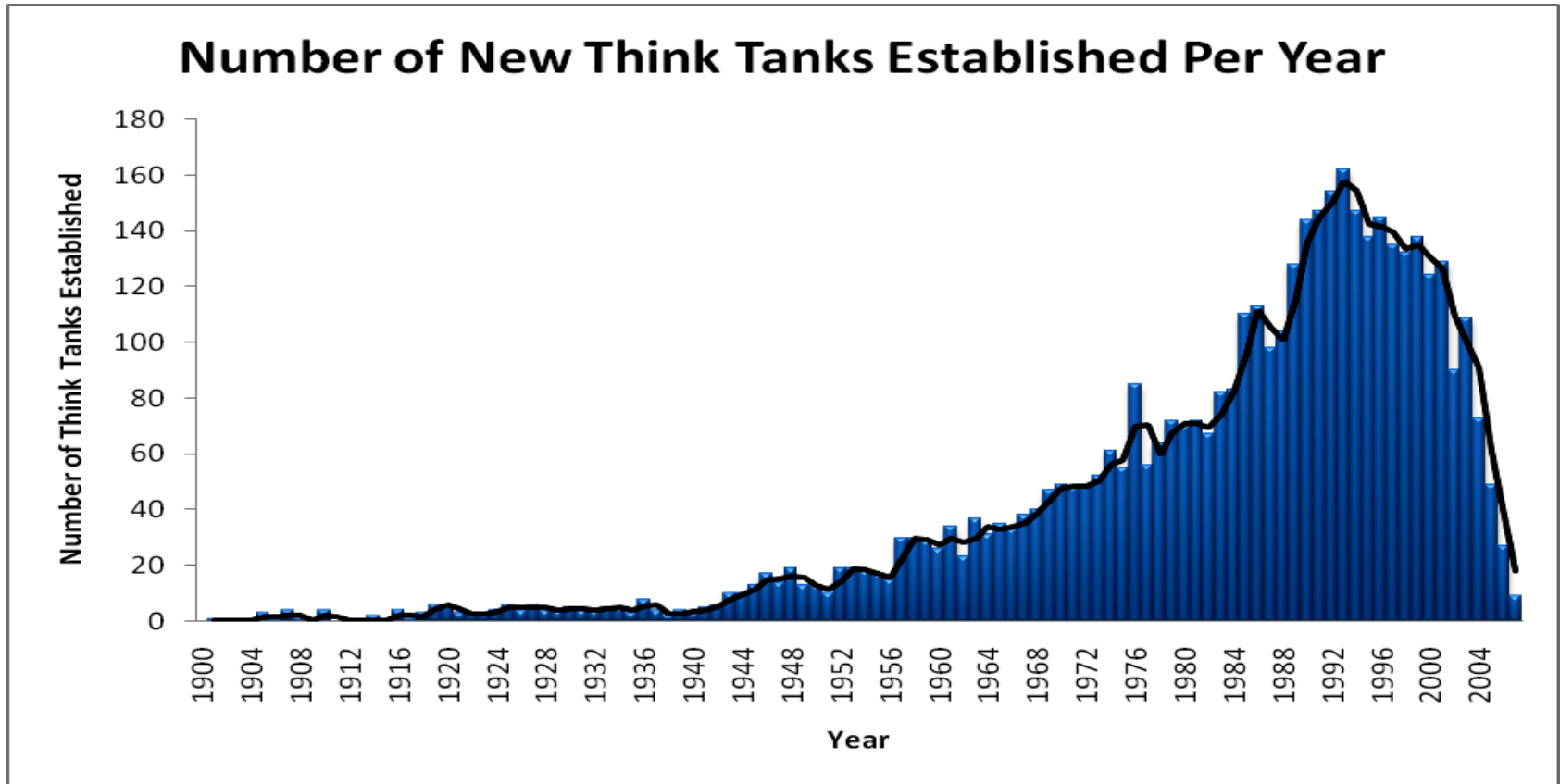
*These institutions often act as a bridge between the academic and policymaking communities, serving in the public interest as an independent voice that translates applied and basic research into a language and form that is understandable, reliable, and accessible for policymakers and the public*



THE LATEST RESEARCH SHOWS THAT  
WE REALLY SHOULD DO SOMETHING  
WITH ALL THIS RESEARCH

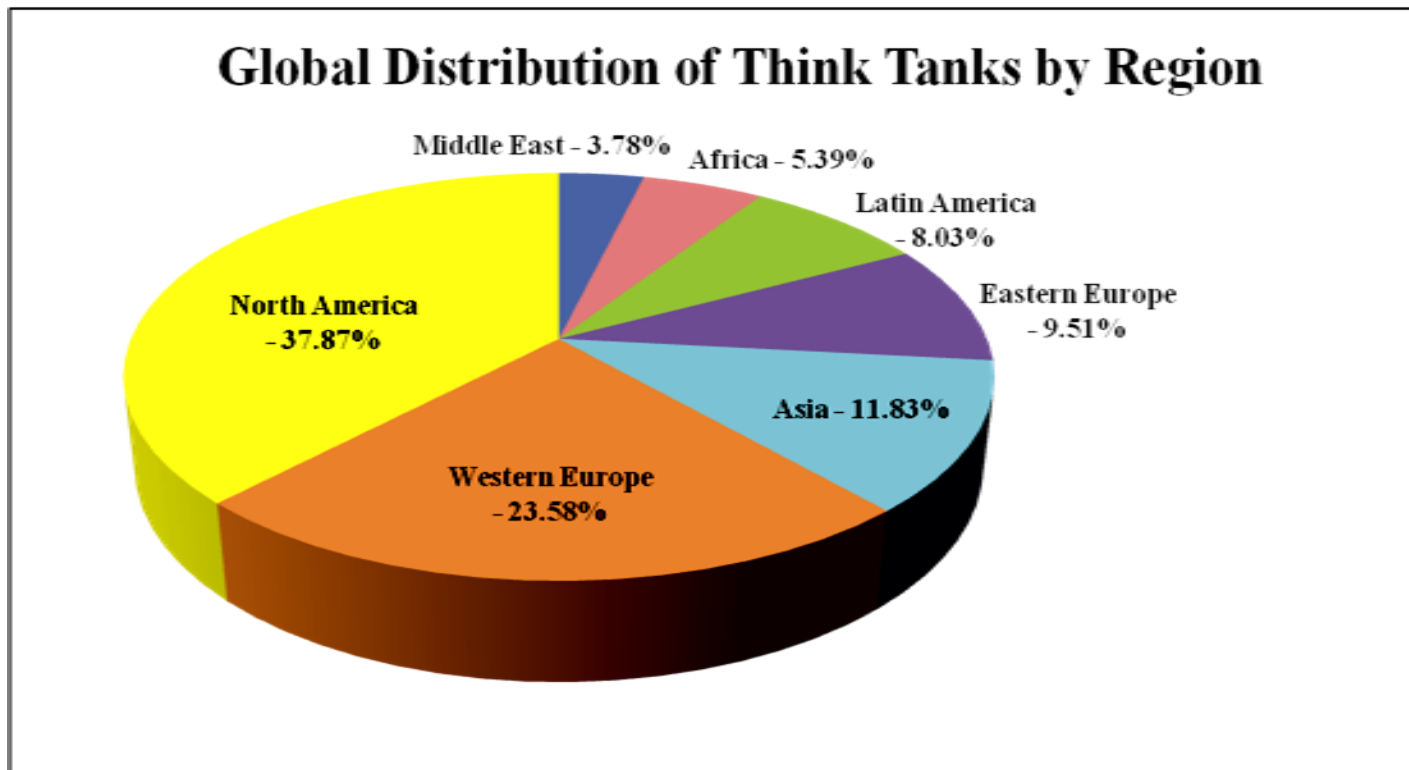


# Recent Trends: Growth since 1990



# Overview – Focus on Developing Regions

- There are 5465 think tanks in the world
  - Asia 653 (11.95%)
  - Latin America and the Caribbean 538 (9.84%)
  - Africa 424 (7.76%)
  - Middle East and North Africa 218 (3.99%)



# Typology of Think tank Affiliations

- Autonomous and Independent
- Quasi Independent
- University Affiliated
- Political Party Affiliated
- Government Affiliated
- Quasi Governmental



# Regional Hubs

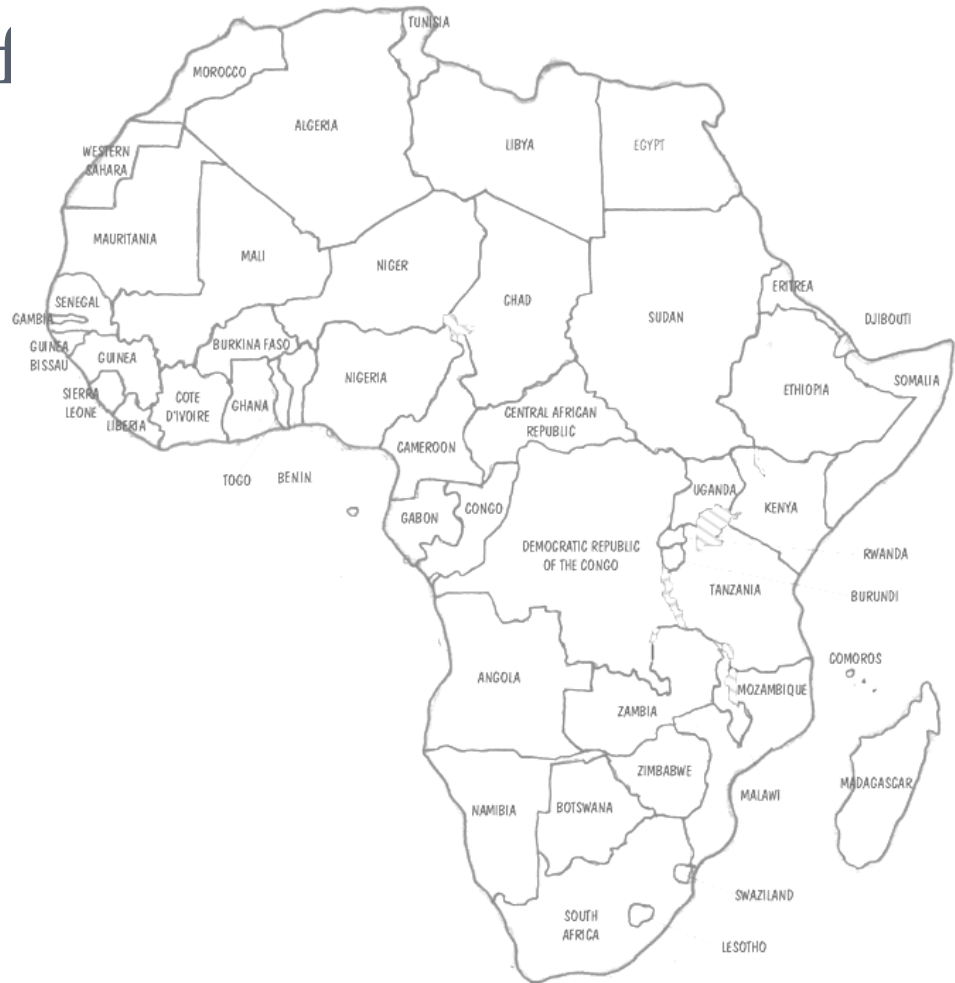
- Eastern and Middle, Western and Southern Africa
  - Nairobi, Kenya
  - Dakar, Senegal
  - Cape town South Africa
- Asia
  - Sydney, Australia
  - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  - Tokyo, Japan
- Latin America & The Caribbean
  - Buenos Aires, Argentina
  - Venezuela
  - Mexico



# AFRICA

## Think Tanks in Africa

- Regional Overview
  - Eastern and Middle
  - Western
  - Southern
- Recent Trends
- Country Profile
  - Kenya



# Introduction

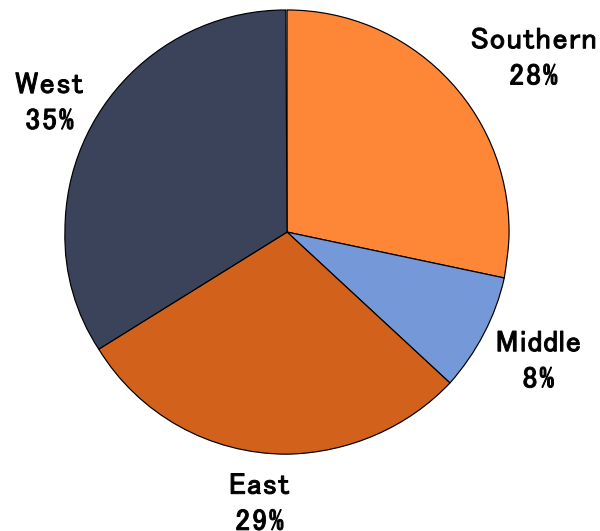
- There are 425 organizations in 42 countries that research a wide range of social, economic, democratic and political issues affecting the region
- Since the 1990's notable increase in Think Tanks, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Substantial Western funding to Think Tanks in favor of democratization, and in response to crises such as civil war, genocide, and the rising AIDS pandemic felt throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.
  - However, they remain seriously underdeveloped and underfunded





# African Think Tanks - Regional Distribution

| Region          | # of Think Tanks | # of Countries |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Southern Africa | 121              | 9              |
| Middle Africa   | 36               | 9              |
| East Africa     | 124              | 13             |
| West Africa     | 144              | 16             |
| Total           | 425              | 47             |




# Think Tank Activity Comparison - Africa

| High Development |      |
|------------------|------|
| Country          | #TTs |
| South Africa     | 78   |
| Nigeria          | 42   |
| Kenya            | 38   |
| Ghana            | 33   |
| Ethiopia         | 20   |
| Zimbabwe         | 19   |

| Low or No Development |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Country               | #TTs |
| Comoros               | 0    |
| Djibouti              | 0    |
| Equatorial Guinea     | 0    |
| Guinea- Bissau        | 0    |
| Mauritania            | 0    |
| Sao Tome & Principe   | 0    |
| Swaziland             | 1    |



# Overall Trends in African Think Tanks

- 49% of Think Tanks were founded after 1900
  - 44% of the think tanks in Africa list the public as one of their target audiences
    - A number of think tanks emphasize healthcare and sustainable development
  - They are generally more limited in number, experience, and resources than their counterparts in other regions
    - However, public and private donors have begun to support efforts to strengthen indigenous research and institutional capacity
      - Only 15% claimed to conduct Contract Research and most are independent and autonomous, receiving money from foreign donors.
  - Structural Orientation
    - 61% independent and autonomous, 19% university affiliated, 10% government affiliated
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# Method of Operation and Research

- All of the think tanks that recorded methods of operation used more than one method
- Policy-Oriented research was used by 72% of think tanks
- Scholarly Research was used by 41% with Training and Technical Assistance used by 40%.
  - 25% of Think Tanks in Southern Africa used Scholarly Research. This figure is largely shaped by South Africa, which has 15 university affiliated think tanks operating in it.
- Areas of Research
  - Greater focus on domestic issues: economic and social development, health (AIDS), policing and crime prevention
  - Growing focus on crime prevention and regional security



# Top 10 Think Tanks in Southern Africa including Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Centre for Conflict Resolution – South Africa

2. South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) – South Africa

3. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) – South Africa

4. Free Market Foundation – South Africa

5. Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) – Senegal

6. IMANI Center for Policy and Education – Ghana

7. Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD) – South Africa

8. Africa Institute of South Africa – South Africa

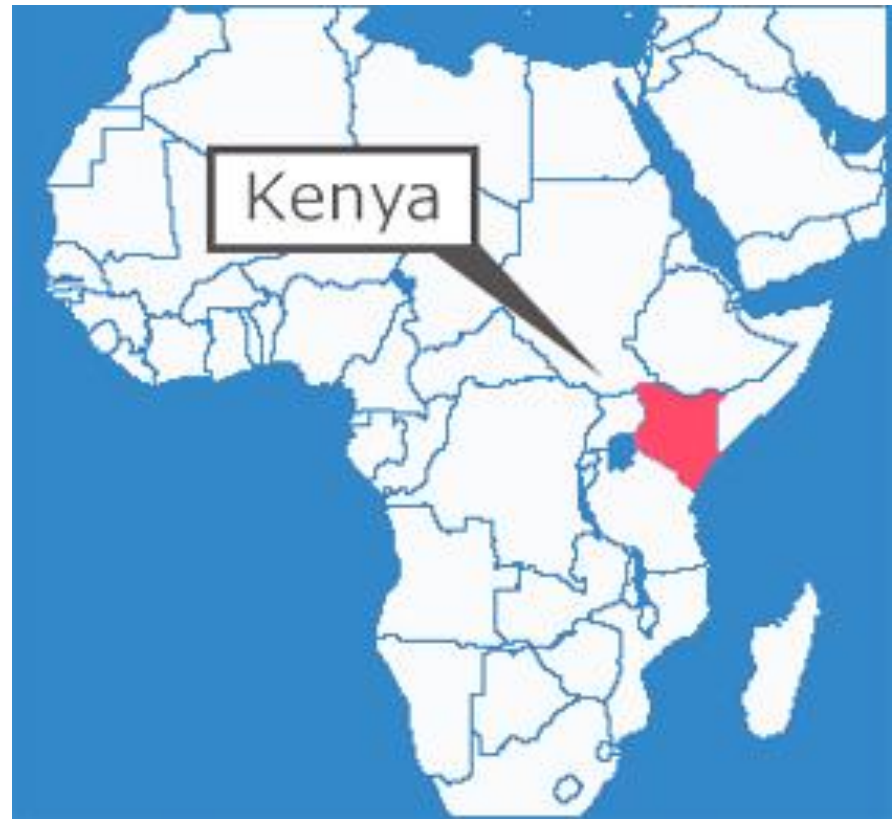
9. African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) – South Africa

10. Centre for Development Studies – Ghana



# Country Profile: Kenya

Number of Think Tanks: 42



Regional Hub: Nairobi



# Kenyan Think Tanks: General Trends

## ○ Popular Research Topics

- Corruption, developmental work, liberty
- Many 'visions' and 'plans'. KIPPRI particularly involved in developing the 'Kenyan Vision 2030'

## ○ General Audience

- Academic institutions, government and private sector

## ○ Influence

- Particularly influential in directing Government's policy, especially after 1980's due to:
  - Significant pressure to improve governance
  - Interference by foreign donor agencies such as World Bank and IMF

## ○ Sources of Funding

- Some think tanks receive government funds (Tax money)
  - Partial funding also provided by African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), USAID, Rockefeller Foundation and Ford Foundation among others.
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# Kenya: Top ranked Think Tanks

## ○ Inter Region Economic Network (IREN)

*‘where a free mind is the ultimate capital’*

- Founded in 2001, Independent
- Advocates free market economics for African development
- Promotes individual liberty in Africa

## ○ Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)

- Founded in 1997, autonomous public institute, affiliated with the government
- Provides public policy consulting to Kenyan government and private sector
- Develops and maintains database on public policy and related issues and makes these available to the government, the private sector and academic institutions





# Overall Trends in Middle Eastern and North African Think Tanks

- Prominent Middle East think tanks have focused largely on state-to-state security issues within the region over the last several decades.
- Our recent research revealed that the two leading areas of research are democratization, and economic policy.
  - Nevertheless, an increasing number of MENA think tanks are branching out with current research projects and are studying environmental issues.
- The number of independent think tanks has grown in recent years but they tend to have a limited degree of freedom
  - However, they do not have much financial or political support relative to other regions in the world.



## Top 10 Think Tanks in Middle East and North Africa

1. Al-Ahram Center for Strategic and Political Studies – Egypt

2. Center for Strategic Studies – Jordan

3. Institute for National Security Studies, formerly Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies – Israel

4. Gulf Research Center – Dubai

5. Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research – UAE

6. Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS) – Lebanon

7. Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) – Turkey

8. Center for Palestine Research and Studies – Palestinian Authority

9. Centre d'Etudes et des Recherches en Sciences Sociales – Morocco

10. Free Minds Association – Azerbaijan



# ASIA

- Total Think Tanks:  
653
  - 12% of Global Total  
Thinks
- Recent Trends
- Country Profile
  - China



# Think Tank Activity Comparison – Asia

| High Development |      |
|------------------|------|
| Country          | #TTs |
| India            | 121  |
| Japan            | 105  |
| China            | 74   |
| Taiwan           | 37   |
| Bangladesh       | 34   |
| Hong Kong        | 29   |

| Low or No Development |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Country               | #TTs |
| Brunei                | 0    |
| Macao                 | 0    |
| Myanmar               | 0    |
| Turkmenistan          | 0    |
| Bhutan                | 1    |
| North Korea           | 2    |
| Laos                  | 3    |



# Overall Trends in Asian Think Tanks

- Focus on economic, strategic and security issues within the region
    - However, they are sometimes 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 playing a significant role in public debate and discussion in their respective countries
    - While many of these organizations started as governmental or quasi-governmental entities, they have slowly become independent actors in civil society
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# Top 10 Think Tanks in Asia

1. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) – China
2. Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) – Japan
3. Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses – India
4. Center for Strategic and International Studies – Indonesia
5. Institute for International Policy Studies – Japan
6. Shanghai Institute for International Studies - China
7. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies -- Singapore
8. Center for Civil Society – India
9. China Institute for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) – China
10. Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies – Singapore



# Country Profile: China

Number of Think Tanks: 74



# Historical Perspective

- 1956 - 1966: Soviet-style ideological Think Tanks
  - Existed to justify government policies, not conduct independent research
  - Hierarchical structure, housed within government ministries
- 1976 - 1989: Emergence of semi-official Think Tanks
  - Focused on economic issues , equipping China for rapid development and integration with the international economic community
  - Greater autonomy and increased influence on policy
- 1989 - Present: Tentative growth of scholarly, civilian Think Tanks
  - Gradual reemergence of Think Tanks especially after 1992
  - Increase in civilian and university-affiliated research organizations and Think Tanks
  - Recent focus on economics





# China: Top ranked Think Tanks

- Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) – Beijing
    - Established in 1977. Affiliated with the State Council of China, also in charge of 105 national academic communities throughout China.
    - Seeks to gradually become a premier research center for Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory
    - Promotes research related to economic reform and development, and socialist democracy
  - Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS)
    - Founded in 1960. Focuses on international politics, economy, security strategy and China's external relations
    - Provides relevant governmental departments with research reports
    - Presents journals to public for popularizing knowledge of international affairs.
  - Shanghai Center for Peace and Development
    - Founded in 2002, limited publications and research fellows
    - Research focuses on governance, peace, human security, political violence and terrorism
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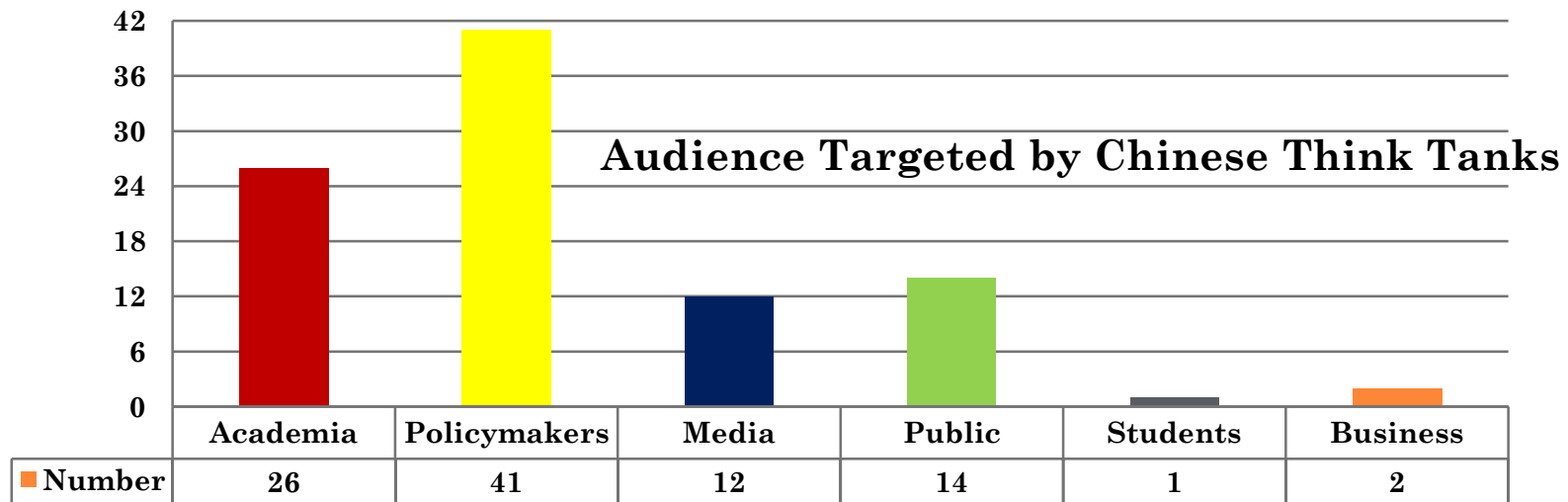
# Chinese Think Tanks: General Trends

## ○ Popular Research Topics

- China's foreign relations, global security and economic strategies
- Defense science and technologies, military and arms control
- Few studies on democracy, or human rights and civil liberties abuse

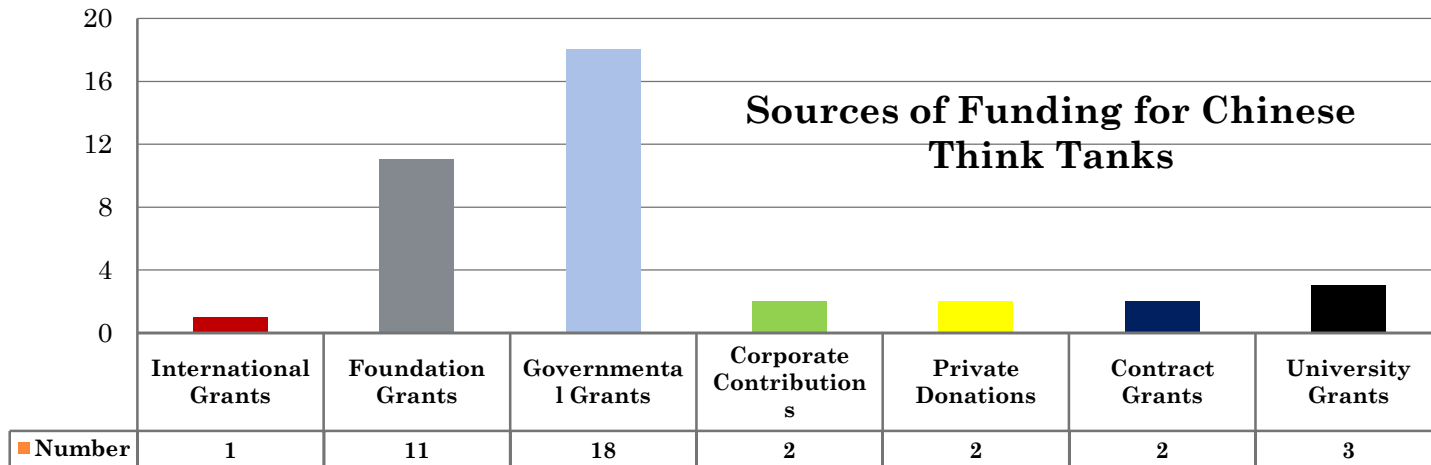
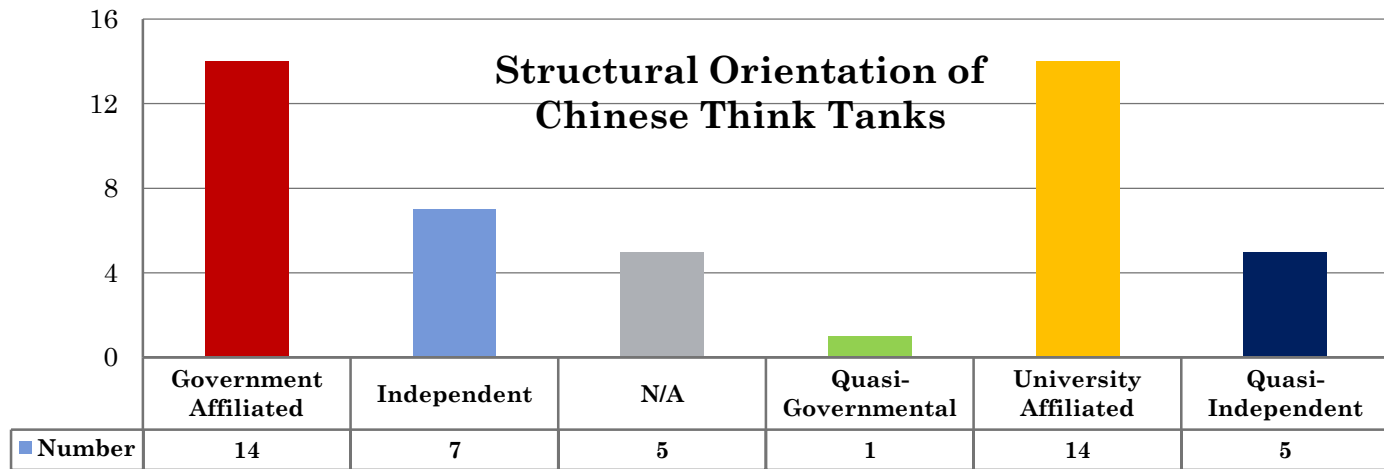
## ○ General Audience

- Academic institutions, government and policy makers
- Little attention paid to media and the public
- A lot of diplomacy between China and the US has taken the form of academic exchanges between members of Think Tanks.



# Sources of Funding and Influence

- A number of think tanks are sponsored by governmental agencies
- They are largely government and university affiliated



# Latin America

## Think Tanks in Latin America

- Regional Overview
- Recent Trends
- Country Profiles



# Latin American Think Tanks - Regional Distribution

- Total Think Tanks: 538
- 10% of think tanks worldwide
- Countries with most think tanks
  - Argentina
  - Mexico
  - Brazil



# Think Tank Activity Comparison – Latin America

| High Development |      |
|------------------|------|
| Country          | #TTs |
| Argentina        | 122  |
| Bolivia          | 36   |
| Brazil           | 39   |
| Chile            | 36   |
| Colombia         | 24   |
| Cuba             | 17   |

| Low or No Development |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Country               | #TTs |
| Antigua & Barbuda     | 0    |
| Belize                | 0    |
| Suriname              | 0    |
| Bahamas               | 1    |
| Bermuda               | 1    |
| Grenada               | 1    |
| St. Lucia             | 1    |



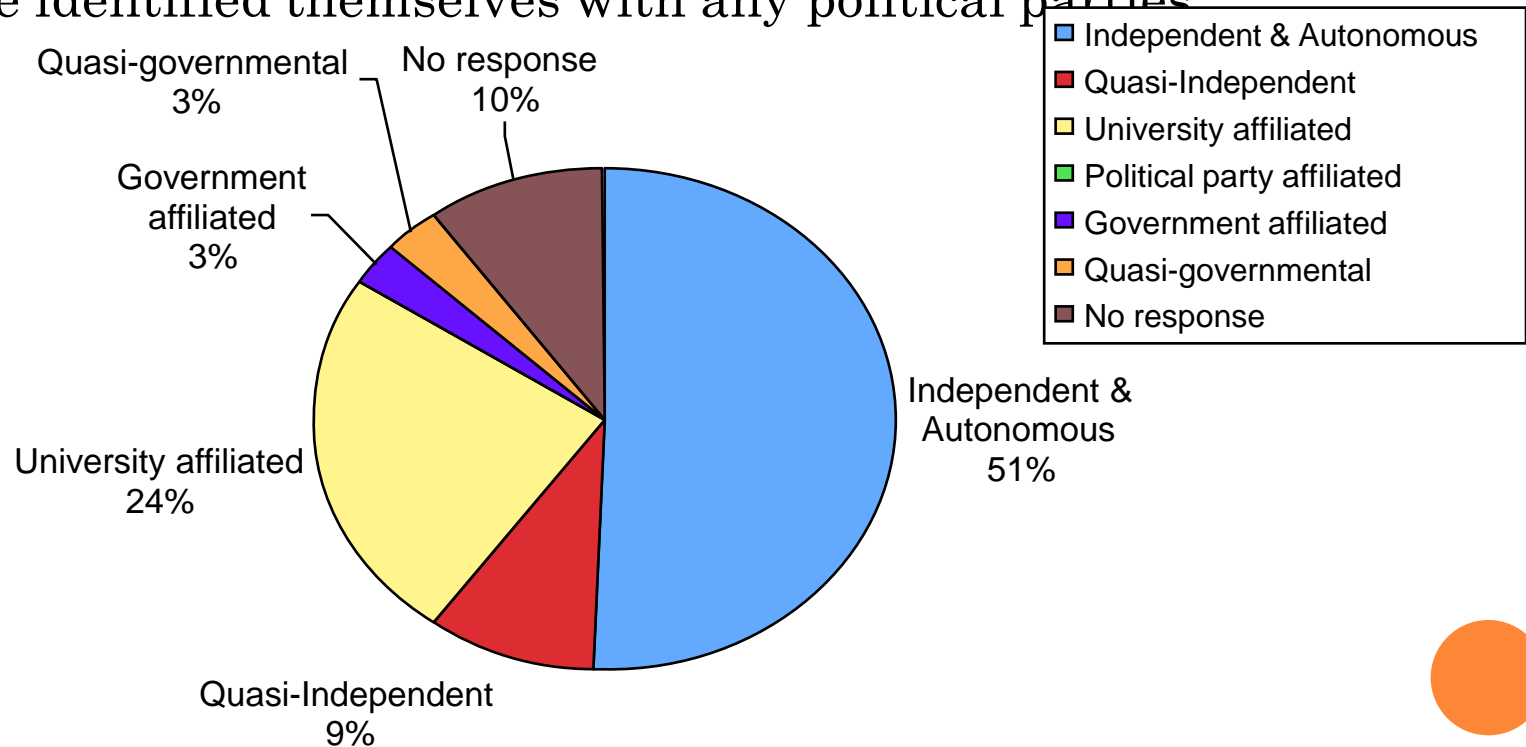
# Trends in Latin American Think Tanks

- Think tanks began emerging in the 1940s - 1990s
  - 57% of think tanks in the region were established between 1980 and 2007
- Most prevalent areas of research
  - Domestic Economics & Social Policy [25%]
  - Environment [8%], education [6%], and health [3%]
- Methods of research
  - Scholarly & Policy-oriented research.
- Support
  - Public policy advocacy
  - Public education & training
  - Technical Assistance
  - Financial Support – Grant foundations



# Structural Orientation – Latin America

- 51% of think tanks were identified as independent and autonomous
- University affiliated think tanks rank second
- None identified themselves with any political parties





# Challenges to the establishment and growth of Think Tanks

- Political freedom and competition
  - ‘populism’ & ‘split of civil society’
- Economic freedom
- Freedom of press



# Top 10 Think Tanks in Latin America & the Caribbean

1. Consejo Argentino de Relaciones Internacionales (CARI)/Argentine Council for International Relations – Argentina

2. Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) - Costa Rica

3. Libertad y Desarrollo – Chile

4. Centro de Estudios Publicos – Chile

5. Centro de Implementacion de Politicas Publicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) - Argentina

6. Fundacion de Investigaciones Economicas Latinoamericanas (FIEL) – Argentina

7. Fundacao Getulio Vargas – Brazil

8. Fundacion Libertad – Argentina

9. Instituto Libertad y Democracia – Peru

10. Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI) – Brazil



# Country Profile: Argentina

Number of Think Tanks: 122



Regional Hub: Buenos Aires



# Argentina : Top Ranked Think Tanks

- Consejo Argentino de relaciones Internacionales (CARI)/  
Argentine Council for International Relations
  - Private academic institution, non-profit organization
  - Examine international relations from a national approach
  - Conducts seminars abroad, workshops, public forums
- Centro de Implementacion de Politicas Publicas para la  
Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC)
  - Non-profit organization
  - Contributors
    - The Brookings Institute, Coca Cola and Diamler Chrysler.
  - Research areas
    - Public, fiscal, education, health, judicial and political management.



# Argentine Think Tanks: General Trends

## ○ Popular research topics

- Economics, social policy, development and trade

## ○ General Audience

- Government, academic institutions, the public

## ○ Influence

- During the 1980s in the transition from authoritarianism to democracy, think tanks served as a bridge between government and the people
- Served as an alternative to mass movements that dominated politics

## ○ Sources of funding

- The majority of funding comes from foundation grants such as:
  - Carlos Pellegrini Foundation
  - U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America



# Conclusions – Developing Regions

- Civil society vastly important to development and consolidation of liberal democracy
  - Development of civil society will initiate a “virtuous cycle” that will result in consolidation of democracy
- Underdevelopment of Think Tanks and civil society can only be remedied by change in institutionalized thinking about political liberalization

