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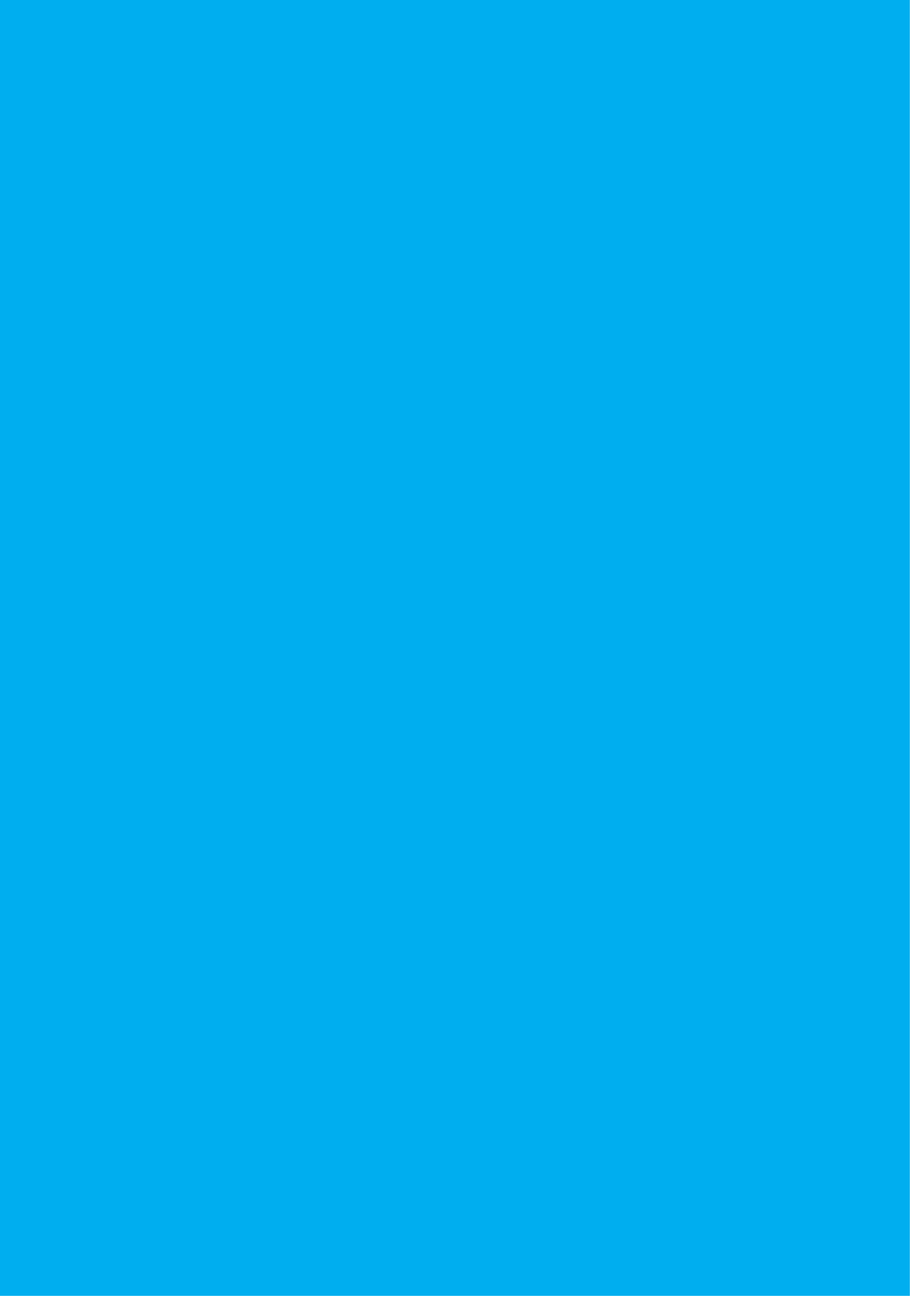
**Confucianism and Democratization in East Asia**

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## Confucianism and Democratization in East Asia

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### Abstract

Why do East Asians understand democracy differently? Why do some East Asians understand it more accurately than others? This paper explores these questions from a cultural perspective. Analyses of the Asian Barometer Surveys and the World Values Survey reveal that attachment to the Confucian culture of hierarchical collectivism and notion of paternalistic meritocracy detracts significantly from the informed understanding of democracy and liberal conceptions of democracy. This finding supports the convergence thesis that a Confucian heritage is incompatible with the Western type of liberal-*procedural* democracy but it can be reformulated to create communitarian democracy.