Contents

List of Figures ................................. page ix
List of Tables ................................. xi
Acknowledgments ......................... xiii

1 Introduction .................................... 1
   1.1 The Argument in Brief ................ 3
   1.2 The Importance of Understanding the Erosion of Democracy ... 7
   1.3 Research Design ....................... 10
   1.4 Book Plan ............................... 20

2 Opposition Strategies against the Erosion of Democracy .......... 22
   2.1 Democratic Erosion .................... 24
   2.2 The Executive and the Opposition ... 31
   2.3 Strategies and Goals .................. 35
   2.4 Scope Conditions ...................... 46
   2.5 Conclusion ............................. 47

3 Electing Leaders with Hegemonic Aspirations ..................... 50
   3.1 The Rise of Presidents with Hegemonic Aspirations .... 51
   3.2 Operationalizing Presidents with Hegemonic Aspirations ... 55
   3.3 Data and Methods ..................... 59
   3.4 Analysis ................................ 67
   3.5 The Rise of Presidents with Hegemonic Aspirations and the Erosion of Democracy .... 76
   3.6 Conclusion ............................. 95

4 “Chávez Vete Ya”: The Erosion of Democracy in Venezuela .......... 98
   4.1 The “Slow Death of Democracy” in Venezuela ............. 100
   4.2 Extrainstitutional Strategies with Radical Goals .......... 105

vii
# Table of Contents

4.3 *Institutional Strategies with Moderate and Radical Goals* 120  
4.4 *Conclusion* 126  

5 Preventing the Erosion of Democracy in Colombia 129  
5.1 *Alvaro Uribe: A President with Hegemonic Aspirations* 131  
5.2 *Moderate Institutional and Extrainstitutional Strategies* 144  
5.3 *Conclusion* 176  

6 Opposition Strategies Elsewhere 178  
6.1 *Cases Overview* 182  
6.2 *Bolivia* 184  
6.3 *Turkey* 196  
6.4 *Poland* 210  
6.5 *Hungary* 222  
6.6 *Conclusion* 235  

7 *Conclusion* 237  
7.1 *Theoretical Implications* 241  
7.2 *Policy Implications* 243  
7.3 *Strategies against the Erosion of Democracy Today* 244  

*Appendices* 247  
*References* 275  
*Index* 301