

POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION TWO

Political socialization is the process in which a person develops their beliefs as a result of external environment and events. This begins when a person is able to form an opinion and does not stop until death.

The biggest factors (as listed in the textbook) that contribute to political beliefs are as follows:

Family

Parents and higher-ups in a family tree are likely to pass their political views onto their offspring. A children's magazine conducted a poll amongst children's political beliefs and compared their results against those of their parents; and they found that children were very likely to answer similar to how their parents had answered.

The impact of parents has gone down though, for a number of reasons:

1. Increased access to information allows children to obtain their views from another source, reducing the impact that parents have on their children's political beliefs.
2. When extensive discussion of politics takes place, especially early, children may learn the ways of political discussion early on and thus expose themselves to more viewpoints in the end, changing their own viewpoints more.

Education

Not only does school expose people to new peer groups and viewpoints and facilitate (if not facilitate, then allow for) political discussion. The K-12 education itself is not shown to have a substantial impact (although the people in the school are very much impactful).

Undergraduate students and college students in general are given more freedom and expected to push farther into their research, which makes the undergraduate experience more impactful. Furthermore, major may be correlated with party alignment, with people in SMCS-related and finance-related classes tending to lean right and people in Humanities-related classes tending to lean left.

In grad school, after obtaining an advanced degree, studies have shown that most tended to lean left, with around 46% of them considering themselves neutral.

Peer Groups

When a person is introduced into another group, that person is often compelled through internal pressure to conform with the beliefs placed upon them by the group. Furthermore, seeing others participate politically often encourages others to do the same, and it is likely that this stretches across ideologies.

However, peer groups can also expose a person to different stories and thus create new political identities. In short, peer groups can reaffirm old beliefs or create new ones, depending factors such as the size and whatnot of the peer group.

Media

The amount of time spent on digital media by the current generation is a lot, which allows the media to exert a good deal of influence on their audiences. Young people especially are able to confront their politicians, form political identity, track their politician's activities easily, and join events that end up shaping their political identity.

Furthermore, the depiction of politicians and public officials, the use of loaded language, etc. has an influence too; this is why many sources are tagged as leaning towards one side or the other.

Religion

Religion is like a second family and peer group, so of course it has influence. Nobody actually knows how much religion has an impact on others (although factors such as the type of role models running these institutions) does have an impact.

A specific religion tends to have a clear and set out ideology, and certain religions are known to affiliate with a certain party more than others, for instance, many Christian denominations tend to lean right and vote Republican.

Civic Institutions

Civic institutions are the private noncommercial and voluntary part of life; examples of said institutions include Scouts BSA. These function the same way as peer groups, either creating diversity or reaffirming previous beliefs.

Geography

Although I cannot find a direct connection, it seems as certain areas are more likely to vote a certain way (and that pushes other people to vote that way too?) Usually the Northeastern and Western sides of the US tend to side with Democrats and the Southern sides of the US tend to side with Republicans. It is possible for a person to agree with both parties overall; for instance; a lower-middle class Southerner may vote in favor of Democratic policies sometimes and Republican policies other times.

Geography is not the sole determining factor although it does seem to have an effect.

GLOBALIZATION

Globalization is the rapid growth of size and complexity of global economies and culture. The U.S. is a large player in this group, both giving and receiving ideas. Our films, ideas and social norms spread to other countries who in turn may change theirs (or remove U.S. culture altogether). Furthermore, U.S. culture's presence seems to have a democratizing effect, with citizens desiring a more democratic culture after exposure to U.S. culture.

In turn, other cultures enter the United States on the backs of people and media. Collaborative workplace culture for instance is partially a result of collectivist ideals entering the United States and overwriting some individualistic ones.

Finally, there is the fact that everyone is a citizen of a higher governing authority and the world. People have relatives with different identities. Common issues such as climate change that are destined to end all human life regardless of national identity push people together. Short term crises foster collaboration and sharing. While national identity may be strong, everyone still realizes and feels a connection to those outside of their nation's border.