

REGIMES, POLITICAL CULTURE, AND IDEOLOGY

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WHY GOVERNMENT?

The nature of collective action:

- Governments exist to solve problems that cannot be solved by individuals or by the market.
- These types of problems are often ones that involve a conflict between the individual good and the collective good.
- This is what we call a collective action problem.
- Governments overcome collective action problems through coercion.

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COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEMS

Collective action problems examples:

- Border security
- Poverty
- Education
- National Defense
- Governments are comprised of agents that are placed into power by principals. These individuals are more easily able to resolve differences in individual preferences.

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THE LOGIC OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

The reason why we have government is to solve problems that we cannot solve on our own. Governments do this through:

- an organization
- establishing legitimacy
- and through coercion.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

When we're talking about organization, we're talking about:

- institutional design - how the various parts of government are structured
- positions - the agents that work within the structures
- people - the individuals that serve as the agents

GOVERNMENT LEGITIMACY

Government legitimacy means:

- Individuals are willing to accept and abide by the decisions of government regardless of whether they agree or disagree.

This is a sense of loyalty to the regime. Is it necessary for government survival?

How is legitimacy built?

- “Divine right”/morality
- Repression
- Democratic selection

GOVERNMENT COERCION

This is the power of government. The mechanism by which government is able to accomplish its goals.

- National military force/police (physical coercion)
- Taxation (economic coercion)
- Norms (mental coercion)

HOW GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

- The ability to govern is the process of taking a set of preferences, and turning them into a set of policies.
 - Determining preferences of the public
 - Creating laws to reflect those preferences
 - Enforcing those laws

REGIMES/TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

Regimes can be classified based on three basic dimensions:

- How many people are in power
- For whom does power benefit
- How transitions of power are handled

Four major types of regimes (governments):

- Monarchy
- Totalitarian/Autocratic
- Oligarchy
- Democracy

TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

We can think about democracy in a number of ways:

- Is there a constitution?
- Multiple levels of government?
- Direct or representative?

What does it mean to be a democracy?

CONSTRUCTING AN IDEAL DEMOCRACY

ROBERT DAHL'S *Polyarchy*

Seven components to a polyarchy:

- **Written constitution** (to create codified limits to power)
- Free and fair, regular elections (to reduce corruption)
- (Nearly) total suffrage (rule by the people)
- Open electoral competition (to eliminate political class)
- Free speech (especially political speech)
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POLITICAL CULTURE

- Political Culture: broadly shared values, beliefs, and expectations about how government should function.
 - Liberty
 - Equality
 - Majority rule, minority rights
- Three different ways to think about (typologies) of political culture:
 - Daniel Elazar
 - Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba
 - Robert Putnam

SOCIAL CAPITAL

How well does the US fare in comparative social capital?

Social Capital Sub-Index

Ranking Distribution for Social Capital

Top 10 countries

- Norway (1)
- Denmark (2)
- New Zealand (3)
- Australia (4)
- Netherlands (5)
- Switzerland (6)
- Finland (7)
- Canada (8)
- United Kingdom (9)
- Ireland (10)

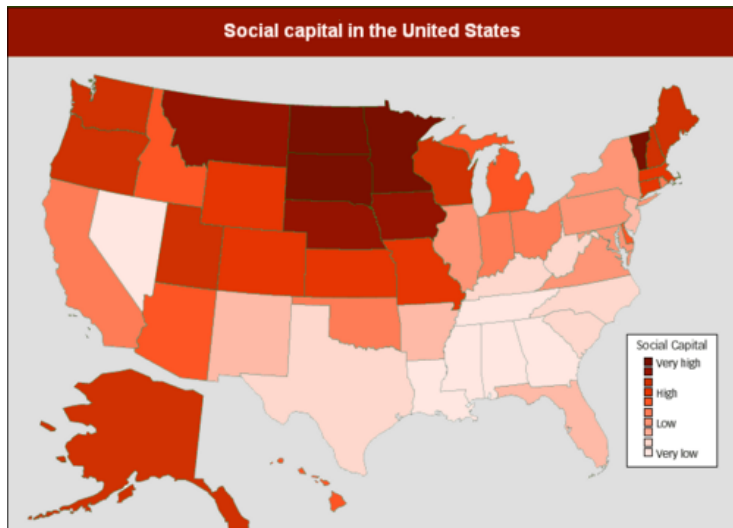
Bottom 10 countries

- 101 Ghana
- 102 Cameroon
- 103 Central African Republic
- 104 El Salvador
- 105 India
- 106 Iran
- 107 Rwanda
- 108 Turkey
- 109 Bangladesh
- 110 Pakistan

● Strong ranking countries (Top 30) ● Average ranking countries (Middle 50) ● Low ranking countries (Bottom 30) ● Insufficient data

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Not bad, right? What about within the United States?



POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

- Different from political culture, but intertwined with it.
- Political ideology: *Individual* beliefs, goals, and expectations about how government should function.
 - Liberal and Conservative
 - The Extremes
 - Moderates
- And its effects on policymaking:
 - Incrementalism
 - Rational Comprehensive

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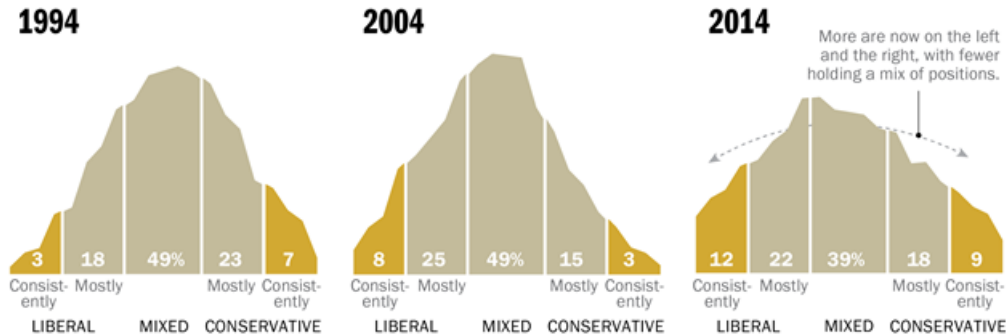
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IDEOLOGY IN THE US

Growing Minority Holds Consistent Ideological Views

On a 10-item scale of political values, % who are...



Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public

Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions. (See Appendix A for details on how the scale is constructed and how scores are grouped.)

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