

Lecture 4

Midterm:

- Review before the midterm
 - Half an hour going over what we need to know and what we have to go over for the midterm
 - Before feb 25th

Michael Ignatieff's text for the project

- The Warrior's Honor: Ethnic War and the Modern Conscience

Political systems

Liberal democracy

- Roots - Democracy
- Term originating in ancient Greece to designate a government where the people share in directing the activities of the state, as distinct from governments controlled by a single class, select group, or autocrat.
- The definition of democracy has been expanded, however, to describe a philosophy that insists on the right and the capacity of a people, acting either directly or through representatives, to control their institutions for their own purposes.
- Such a philosophy places a high value on the equality of individuals and would free people as far as possible from restraints not self-imposed.
- It insists that necessary restraints be imposed only by the consent of the majority and that they conform to the principle of equality.
- Greece: was low-key the origins of democracy.
- Rome: was one of the first proto-global empires.
- Demos -
- How:
 1. Elements
 - a. Equality
 - b. Liberty
 - c. Grateful
 2. Indicators
 3. Mechanisms
- Four main points ***
 1. Belief in the person
 - a. Based on the idea that the individual is both moral and rational
 2. A belief in REASON and PROGRESS
 - a. Based on the belief that growth and development are the natural conditions of mankind, with politics the art of compromise.

3. A consensual theory of society
 - a. Based on the belief that society is a kind of mutual benefit association, based on the desire for order and cooperation, rather than disorder and conflict.
4. A suspicion of concentrated forms of power
 - a. Whether by individuals, groups, or governments.
- Four elements to effective liberal democracy
 1. Power
 - a. Check and balances, such as the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial power
 - b. Conventions of behavior and equitable legal system
 2. Legitimacy
 - a. Government with a mandate/authority to rule is crucial
 - b. Government require a high degree of popular support, derived form an electoral system that allows for popular, free, and frequent elections with the highest possible franchise.
 3. Justice
 - a.
 4. Freedom
- Constitution
 1. *"Fundamental law of a nation or state which established the character and basic principles of the government"*
 2. It is a national matrix, it designs the government - Executive, legislative, judiciary
 3. Outlines specific provisions with respect to relations between state institutions - three major branches
 4. Provide guarantee for protection of citizen rights
 5. Provide legitimacy of the state
 - a. internal
 - b. External
 6. Provide provision for amendment
- "The best argument against liberal democracy is a 5 minute chat with average voter" - Winston "fat blunt" Churchill
- Charter of right and freedoms:
 1. Democratic rights
 - a. For example, the right for every citizen to vote
 2. Fundamental freedoms of conscience, religion, thought, expresion, peaceful assembly, association.
 3. Mobility rights
 - a. To enter, remain in, or leave Canada, and move into, and earn a living in.
 4. Legal rights
 - a. A long list, including such things as the right to a fair, reasonably prompt, public trial by an impartial court.
 5. Equality rights

- a. No discrimination on grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability;
- 6. Official language rights
- 7. Minority-language education rights
 - a. in certain stances

Federalism

- A federal state is one that brings together a number of different political communities with a common government for common purposes, and separate "state" or "provincial" or "cantonal" governments for the particular purposes of each community
- Allow local government to tackle smaller issues that are specific to the regions

Unitary

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Confederation

- European union