

Making Causal Critiques

Day 1 - Deconstructing

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Causal Critiques

- ▶ Political science is about *explaining* outcomes
 - ▶ Do parliamentary systems last longer than presidential ones?
 - ▶ Does development lead to democracy?
 - ▶ Does democracy prevent war?
 - ▶ Did voters support President Trump because of jobs lost to immigration?
- ▶ Explanation requires:
 1. Theory
 2. Evidence

Causal Critiques

- What is a causal critique?

Do parliamentary systems last longer than presidential ones?	"No, Parliamentary systems last longer because they are in Europe, not because they are parliamentary"
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Causal Critiques

- What is a causal critique?

Do parliamentary systems last longer than presidential ones?

"No, democracy causes development"

"No, Parliamentary systems last longer because they are in Europe, not because they are parliamentary"
Does development lead to democracy?

Causal Critiques

- What is a causal critique?

Do parliamentary systems last longer than presidential ones?

"No, democracy causes development"
Does democracy prevent war?

"No, Parliamentary systems last longer because they are in Europe, not because they are parliamentary"

Does development lead to democracy?

"Of course not, India and Pakistan were democracies and had a war in 1999"

Causal Critiques

► What is a causal critique?

Do parliamentary systems last longer than presidential ones?

"No, democracy causes development"
Does democracy prevent war?

"Obviously not, jobs were

"No, Parliamentary systems last longer because they are in Europe, not because they are parliamentary"

Does development lead to democracy?

"Of course not, India and Pakistan were democracies and had a war in 1999"

Did voters support President Trump because of jobs lost to immigration?

Causal Critiques

- ▶ What is a causal critique?
 - ▶ A comment at a seminar
 - ▶ A critique of a policy
 - ▶ A response as a journal referee
 - ▶ A worry about your own research paper