

Midterm Exam

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L-20 / 27.10.2024 /

(iii) Two - Party System:

⊗ Harold Laski:

- argued that two party system check autocracy; ensuring strong oppositions.

⊗ Smith :

- argued that the system divides the nation and have similar policies.

⇒ U.K. & U.S. - two party system

- both party have about an equal chance of winning.

⇒ there can be some third parties.

- U.S. Libertarians

- Britain's Liberal Democratic party

⇒ new political ideas come mostly from third parties.

⇒ Bangladesh almost two party system.

- Awl & BNP

N Multiparty System:

- Swedish party system has eight ~~part~~ parties arrayed on a left-to-right spectrum.
- receives seats in parliament according to their proportion of vote.
 - ⇒ Israel, Netherlands successful example.
 - ⇒ Bangladesh, India also multi-party system.

⊗ In Bangladesh:

Right Party ⇒ Islamic Party

Left Party ⇒ Communist Party

Extreme Right ⇒ Jihadi

Extreme Left ⇒ Revolt to change the govt.

✓ Two-Plus party system:

- there are two main-stream party
 - and then, there are some small party
 - win enough votes to make them politically important.
- ⇒ Germany - two-plus party system.
- ⇒ Bangladesh can also be categorized as two plus party system.

(vi) Fluid Party System:

- Parties rise and fall quickly.
- change parties too frequently.
- poorly organize and fall apart.

* Two Plus Party system is the best as the small parties helps to pressure the government and works for people.

(vii) Roskin:

- argued that as long as there are at least two parties, the system is called "competitive party system."

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* Why voters have less confidence in political parties?

⇒

- i) The ideological clashes of the twentieth century are over; most major parties are centrist and similar.
- ii) The mass media, the interest group and think tanks have taken over some of the functions

of parties. But what will take place of parties?

(iii) Dependent on big money, parties fall under special-interest influence.

* U.S. political parties are weakly organized and decentralized - in effect, every congressional district and state has its own parties, little related to each other.

* battle ground / swing states: where there is a chance of getting less votes.

* In U.S. no way to get chance for the third party. Two party system will remain forever.

Elections:

* American elections matters to all over the world.

- because of President.

- Who will be next President? what he/she will do to other countries?

What is election?

→ is a formal decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office.

Form and substance of election:

- in some cases, electoral forums are present but the substance of an election is missing.
- voters do not have 'a free and genuine choice' between at least two alternatives.

Significance of Election:

- people choose their leaders who make decisions on their behalf.
- Democracy is based on all people having the same rights.
- Without elections, democracy isn't based on "the wants and needs of the people."

What are the key components of democracy?

→ Free and fair election, active participation of citizens in the government, protection of human rights for citizens

Who holds political power in democracy?

⇒ People. People choose their leaders.

 How are differences usually settled in a democracy?

⇒ Participants settle differences through elections.

 What's the definition of "representative" democracy?"?

⇒ Representative democracy is a governmental structure based upon citizens electing representatives to serve on their behalf.

 Presidential elections:

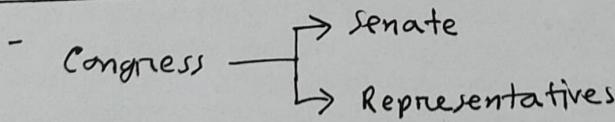
- national election holds every two years

- presidential election holds every four years

- president elected by electors of the Electoral College. at least 270 Electoral College votes.

- parties hold a series of primary election to determine the candidate presidential candidate.

 Congressional Elections:



- Senate Election:

- The Senate has 100 members, elected for a six year term in dual-seat constituencies, with one-third being renewed every two years.

- ~~Rep~~

Representatives Elections:

- total 435 members, elected for two years
- single seat constituencies.
- election held every two years.

Why do People vote?

⇒ for their own benefit/interest.

Anthony Downs:

- Economic theory of democracy
- "people votes if the returns outweigh the costs."

 Property owners fearing tax hikes are more likely to vote than renters not immediately hurt by the tax.

 Poor and uneducated people reluctant to vote.
- India.

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Election: US Perspective

 Only 40% people participate in national elections.
Why low turnout?

⊗ Why do American vote so little?

⇒

- ① More than half of the U.S. voters said that they are uninterested in or dissatisfied with candidates. Their vote makes no difference or that none of the candidates is good.
- ② The U.S. Party system. two large parties may not offer an interesting or cut-clear choice.
- ③ Fewer than one in 20 American adults is involved enough in politics to attend a political meeting.
- ④ Two out of five Americans never vote.

⊗ Two School of thoughts concerning low turnout:

- ① no electoral participation means that many Americans are turning away from the political system, which loses legitimacy.
- ② low turnout means that many Americans are basically satisfied with the system or not sufficiently dissatisfied to register and vote.

 many states now allow early voting, which boosts turnout.

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 Who votes and why?

⇒ Some factors:

- Income
- Education
- Race
- Age
- Gender
-

i) Income & Education:

- correlated
- good education leads good income.
- good amount of money or income leads good education.
- less educated - reluctant to vote.
 - they didn't find enough difference between candidate.
- Like, Rickshawpuller can say,
"whoever win, my future will not change."

⇒ In America, 100% educated people. Then why people do not vote?

⇒ "quality of education" - Raskin.

- people are more self-centric
- don't care about society
- U.S. education failed to make young people conscious.

ii) Race:

- White voting rates > black voting rates
- income and education level rising in black.
 - black voting rates increasing.
- learned the value of participation after a Black President.

iii) Age:

- young people under 25 age feel less politically involved and vote less.
- about half of the U.S. citizens age 18-25 and not register to vote.
- When they starts income and pay taxes, their interests grows.

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Gender:

- men voting ^{rates} $>$ women voting ^{reversing rates.}

- But now it's reversed.

women voting rates $>$ men

V

Place of Residence:

- voters in U.S. South < North & West

- because of lower living standards and lack
of party competition.

X

Who votes whom and why?

⇒ factors can be divided into long term and short
term variables:

i

Party Identification:

- strong party identifiers habitually vote for
that party.

- weak identifiers can be swayed to vote another
party.

- Party ID is heavily influenced by parents life
early in life.

(ii) Class Voting:

- Wage workers \Rightarrow Democrats
- families where breadwinners are union members.
- Earnings < \$50,000 a year \Rightarrow Democrat.

(iii) Regional voting:

California \Rightarrow Democrats

Texas \Rightarrow Republicans

(iv) Religious Blocks:

- White protestant \Rightarrow Republic
- secular, Catholics, and Jews \Rightarrow Democrat.

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(v) Age Groups:

- 18-29 \Rightarrow Democrat : open on race
- and older \Rightarrow Republic : less open on race, they know black was were there slaves once.

(vi) Gender Gap:

- Women \Rightarrow Democrat
 - welfare measure, abortion rights
 - dislike republicans for defense spending (war)
- Roskin : women are peaceloving.

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Marriage Gap:

- unmarried \Rightarrow Democrat
 - married \Rightarrow Republic
 - Republic focus on families value
- \Rightarrow Why Americans do not marry?
- due asset divided 50% t.

viii

Gay Group:

- supports democrat.

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Race:

- 80% African-American \Rightarrow Democrat
- 2/3 Hispanic \Rightarrow Democrat.

\Rightarrow Republicans:

- tough laws against illegal immigrants
- strong white support.

x

Urban voting:

- Cities \Rightarrow Democrat
- Small town and rural areas \Rightarrow Republican

④ What wins Elections?

⇒ Citizen choose their government. But the element of national choice is heavily manipulated by the twin factors:

- Personality of the Candidates.
- Role of Mass Media: TV debate.

⑤ Retrospective Voting:

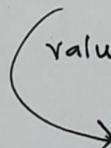
- President's 4 year performance is evaluated as a whole in particular whether he has done a good job or poor one on the economy.
- When Americans feel good about the economy, they vote for the incumbent party.

⑥ Candidate Strategies and Voter Groups:

- The campaigns try to boost turnout among those who favor them but often do not vote.
- Presidential candidates focus on states with
 - more electoral votes
 - close to 50-50 voting, on swing states, battleground.
 - Florida, Ohio etc.

⇒ California (Democrat) & Texas (Republican) get little time and money

U.S. Electoral System:

- The Electoral College consists of 538 electors.
 - Senate = 100
 - Representatives = $435 + 3$ (Columbia)
 -
- this Electoral College is widely considered to be an undemocratic.
 - breaks the connection between popular will and electoral result.
 - They can deny the president candidate.
 - But ~~if~~ the system cannot be reform,
 - due to 17 small states.
 - if reform, then small states will not get value.

largest vote voters will win the elections.
 - these states can block any constitutional change, which requires two-thirds of each house plus three-fourths of the state legislatures.

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Quiz - 3
10.11.2028
Political Parties &
Elections.