

PS856, Week 5: Regime Types

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Highlights of the Readings

- Claassen (2020) presented the most interesting model. I thought that the idea of thermostatic opinion was interesting, unexpected, and compelling. I think that such a model can be extended to far more areas of research beyond democratic mood as well.
- The disagreement between Acemoglu et al. (2008) and Svobik (2008) on the impact of income on democracy should make for interesting discussion in our seminar

Critiques of the Readings

- None of the readings assesses the issue of trust and mutual toleration. I think that Przeworski (1999) would greatly benefit from a discussion of trust in his piece. Without it, I worry that his model is oversimplified.
- While Magaloni (2008) makes a convincing and interesting argument, it fails to address why single-party dictatorships outlive multi-party dictatorships. While I can intuitively understand why this might be the case, I think that the finding actually conflicts with the model presented in this article.

References

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson, and Pierre Yared. 2008. "Income and Democracy." *American Economic Review* 98 (3): 808–42. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.98.3.808>.
- Claassen, Christopher. 2020. "In the Mood for Democracy? Democratic Support as Thermostatic Opinion." *American Political Science Review* 114 (1): 36–53. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055419000558>.
- Magaloni, Beatriz. 2008. "Credible Power-Sharing and the Longevity of Authoritarian Rule." *Comparative Political Studies* 41 (4-5): 715–41. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414007313124>.
- Przeworski, Adam. 1999. "Democracy." In *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*, 10–39. Cambridge University Press.
- Svolik, Milan. 2008. "Authoritarian Reversals and Democratic Consolidation." *The American Political Science Review* 102 (2): 153–68. <https://doi.org/10.2307/27644508>.