

Political Regimes

Lecture 8

Introduction

- Just finished with the **state**.
 - *Slater* suggested that **elections** foster **state-making**.
 - It's time to start thinking about **democracy**.
- **Why we read these two pieces:**
 - Both pieces are considered **classic** examples of “comparative” politics.
 - Both of them try to **map what democracy is**.
Not from a **conceptual** point of view, but from an **empirical** (practical) way.

Aristotle: Politics

- Uses a **dual criteria** to **classify** the different regimes:
- **Quantitative** (how many): one ruler, few rulers, many rulers.
- **Qualitative** (end): self-interest, common good.

[illegible]

Good Regimes			Bad Regimes		
Regime	How Many	End	Regime	How Many	End
		Common Good			Self-interest
		Common Good			Self-interest
		Common Good			Self-interest

Good Regimes			Bad Regimes		
Regime	How Many	End	Regime	How Many	End
	One Ruler	Common Good		One Ruler	Self-interest
	Few rulers	Common Good		Few rulers	Self-interest
	Many rulers	Common Good		Many rulers	Self-interest

Good Regimes			Bad Regimes		
Regime	How Many	End	Regime	How Many	End
Kingship	One Ruler	Common Good	Tyranny	One Ruler	Self-interest
	Few rulers	Common Good		Few rulers	Self-interest
	Many rulers	Common Good		Many rulers	Self-interest

Good Regimes			Bad Regimes		
Regime	How Many	End	Regime	How Many	End
Kingship	One Ruler	Common Good	Tyranny	One Ruler	Self-interest
Aristocracy	Few rulers	Common Good	Oligarchy	Few rulers	Self-interest
	Many rulers	Common Good		Many rulers	Self-interest

Good Regimes			Bad Regimes		
Regime	How Many	End	Regime	How Many	End
Kingship	One Ruler	Common Good	Tyranny	One Ruler	Self-interest
Aristocracy	Few rulers	Common Good	Oligarchy	Few rulers	Self-interest
Polity	Many rulers	Common Good	Democracy	Many rulers	Self-interest



What is the “best” form of government?

Polity / "Constitutional Government"

- A **constitution based on the middle class** is the **mean between the extremes** of **oligarchy** (rule by and for the **rich**) and **democracy** (rule by and for the **poor**).
- From the **oligarchy**: public offices are **elected** (not by draw, like in the democracy).
- From the **democracy**: political power **doesn't depend on income**.

Lijphart: Mapping Democracy

- Just like Aristotle, Lijphart is interested in **detecting empirical regularities**.
- **Democracies** can be **placed** within a **majoritarian-consensus** continuum.
- The UK, Switzerland and Belgium cases are surveyed.

Lets classify the U.S.

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How **'consensual'** or **'majoritarian'** is the U.S?

Lets Classify the U.S.

How

1. Concentration of executive power in one-party?
2. Cabinet dominance or shared cabinet?
3. Two-party o Multiparty system?
4. Majoritarian or proportional system of elections?
5. Pluralist (interest groups-Lobby) or Corporatist system?
6. Unitary?
7. Concentration of legislative power in a unicameral legislature
8. Constitutional flexibility.
9. A central bank controlled by the executive.

The U.S. has **considerable**
social, racial, and
economic “cleavages”

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Should the U.S. adopt a proportional representation system?

The U.S. has a
“**winner-take-all**”
system

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“**winner-take-all**”
system

It's very **prone** to
Legislative-Executive
Deadlocks



SHUT DOWN

Should we move to a more consensual system?

SHUT DOWN

A photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., featuring its iconic dome and neoclassical architecture. A large, bold, red rectangular stamp with the words "SHUT DOWN" in all caps is superimposed over the center of the image, partially obscuring the building's facade and columns. The sky is filled with white, fluffy clouds.

