Week 6 Thur 11/3/16 Political Redistricting and Gerrymandering

Redistricting: The process of drawing electoral district boundaries

In the U.S., this is most commonly congressional districts

In the U.S., congress is divided into two houses: the senate and the house of representatives. The senate has two senators from each state. The House of Representatives has representatives based on the population of the U.S.

We redistrict to ensure that each representative to the House of Representatives has roughly the same number of constituents, determined by census data

Redistrict every 10 years

Process of Redistricting:

Redistrict every 10 years

Length of redistricting process varies by state

Some states only have 1 district and don’t redistrict at the national congressional level, but may redistrict at smaller scales

Washington’s redistricting was signed into law in Feb 2012

Following 2010 census, each district is supposed to have on avg 711,000 ppl

Washington gained a seat after the 2010 census (as did some other western and southern states, while the NE mostly lost seats)

Depends on state:

Some states have only one district (7): Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, Vermont

State Legislatures Commission: Usually by a simple majority vote in both houses, though two states (Connecticut and Maine) require 2/3 majorities. Most states allow the governor to veto the decision (though 5 don’t: Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina). Many have backup plans in case of gridlock such as the governor drawing the districts, the secretary of state drawing the districts, backup commissions appointed by the legislature, commissions of other statewide elected officials, etc.

Advisory Commissions: Commissions redraw lines and recommend such “solutions” to the legislature, but the legislatures are not necessarily required to adhere to these recommendations (Iowa, Ohio, Virginia, New York, Rhode Island, Maine)

Politician (?)/Backup(?) Commission: In New Jersey and Hawaii, a commission of appointed or elected politicians redraws the boundaries (this is also used as a backup plan by a number of other states)

Independent Commissions: (Washington, California, Idaho, Arizona) How the commissions are assigned varies from state to state, but generally do not include legislatures or other elected officials

Washington’s Independent Commission

5 People (4 voting, 1 non-voting)

1 Registered Voter appointed by the majority state senate leader

1 registered voter appointed by the minority state senate leader

1 registered voter appointed by the majority house of representatives leader

1 registered voter appointed by the minority house of representatives leader

Non-Voting: 1 chair person appointed by the previous four (if they can’t agree, appointed by the state supreme court)

The state legislature can amend (make some changes to) the commission’s maps by a 2/3 vote in both the senate and the house of representatives

Gerrymandering: The manipulation of electoral boundaries to favor one group over another

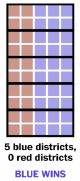
1812: Redrawing Massachusetts state senate election districts under then governor Elbridge Gerry to benefit his political party. The term was first used by Boston Gazette: Gerry’s Salamander -> “Gerrymander”

Benefits a particular political party

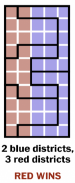
To protect a particular incumbent (someone currently in office) or oust an incumbent

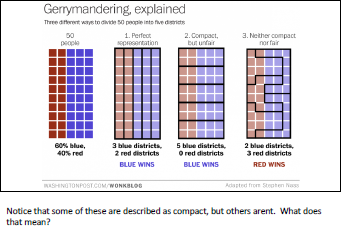
To give advantage/disadvantage to a particular group (interest/racial/ethnic/age group, etc)

Cracking/Splintering: A method of gerrymandering in which a particular population is broken up and distributed amongst a number of districts in order to minimize their voting impact



Packing: A method of gerrymandering in which a particular population is packed into a single district (or small number of districts) in order to maximize their voting impact in that district or to minimize their voting impact elsewhere





**WHAT DOES COMPACT MEAN**

Racial Gerrymandering I: Cracking and packing to attempt to dilute/weaken the minority vote

Racial Gerrymandering II: Cracking and packing to attempt to strengthen the minority vote (usually through the creation of majority-minority districts)

Gerrymandering Rules:

Equal Representation: Same number of people per district

Compactness: Physical proximity of one part of the district with another

Contiguity: Must be an unbroken shape (a rule in many states, but not all)

Legality of Gerrymandering:

To a degree. “It’s kind of a Goldilocks problem. You must take race into account somewhat to comply with the Voting Rights Act, but you if you take into account too much the racial considerations you can get in trouble as well. The question is how do you know when you’ve gotten it just right.”

That balance tends to fluctuate with the balance of the supreme court. The supreme court has on its docket now a case that will likely clarify its current threshold of what is allowable: Bethune-Hill v Virginia State Board of Elections

Strategies Proposed to Avoid Gerrymandering

Independent Commissions

Computerized Redistricting

The Collapse of the Congressional District System

Interesting Case: Prisons

NY State is has received recent attention b/c it has a large prison pop in some rural areas of upstate NY. While convicted felons can’t vote and those prisoners who can vote often continue to vote in their home communities (generally urban areas downstate), they count as part of the rural upstate pop for the purposes of redistricting).

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Week 7 Tue 11/8/16 Internal Migration and the Demographics of the National Election

Migration: A permanent change in residence

Not temporary change (seasonal workers, travel, etc.)

Internal Migration: Ppl within a country moving to another location within the same country

Inter (between): state, region

Intra (within): state, region, urban (migration w/in the same city or town

Interstate, intrastate, interregional, intraregional intraurban

Intraurban Migration: Moving homes (addresses) within an urban area

You change addresses, but often stay close enough to maintain jobs, school districts, friends, etc

The most common form of internal migration

Common reasons for intraurban migration:

House size

Neighborhood location

etc.

This area is of growing attention to geographers who have traditionally focused more on larger moves

Intrastate Migration: Change cities, but stay within the state

Common reasons:

Jobs

Education

Often rural to urban migration (particularly of young adults (ages 17-25))

Interstate migration: Moving from one state to another

Common reasons:

Jobs, careers

Education

Traditionally demographers have focused most heavily on this form of migration, but recently attention has tended to start shifting down to smaller scales

How to Measure Migration

International Migration:

Visa Applications

Border Control / Immigration

Census / Surveys

Internal Migration:

Census / Surveys

IRS

In the US, internal migration is measured based on changes in address within the past year (this is a question on your taxes every year and is part of the American Community Survey)

Discussing International Migration

Net Migration = Immigration – Emigration

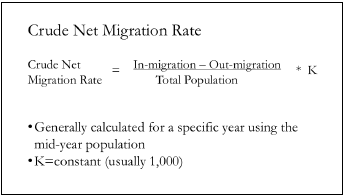
Discussing Internal Migration:

Net Migration = In-Migration – Out-Migration

Crude Net Migration Rate

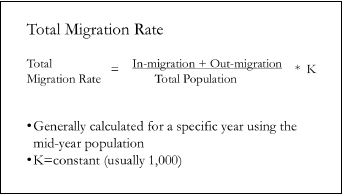
Shows if population is growing or shrinking

If Washington gets a lot of people moving in and lots moving out, the CNMR can look the same as a state with few people moving in and few moving out. Total Migration Rate and calculate this.



Total Migration Rate:

Measures what fraction of the population is migrating (changing addresses). It does not tell you whether the population is growing or shrinking (need the CNMR to do that).



Internal Migration in the US

US has a very high rate of internal migration (compared with other countries), but it is now on the decline

Reasons for decline in rate of internal migration:

Population growth in the least mobile groups (elderly, homeowners, etc.)

Rise in dual career couples (moving for one job is relatively easy; moving because two jobs lines up is significantly harder

Rise in divorce rate (divorced parents choose to stay near their kids)

Deunionization (workers less mobile bc it’s harder to bargain for a higher paying job elsewhere)

Labor Market Convergence (labor markets w/in the US are starting to look more and more alike so there is less motivation to move elsewhere to access a better labor market)

Great Recession and Foreclosure Crisis (actually initially increased intracounty / intraurban mobility as houses were foreclosed, but dramatically decreased intercounty/interurban mobility (ppl don’t have the money to start over elsewhere

Large Historical Migration in the US

Western Frontier (17th c. – 19th c.) (since European settlement of North America began, there was a slow shift in pop westward as land became available. Most motivated by economic gain (some by religion freedom, e.g. Mormons))

The Great Migration (1910 – 1970) (migration of Blacks from the rural south to the urban north and California. Approximately 1.4 million African Americans moved. Some scholars break it into the First (1910 – 1940) and Second (1940 – 1970) Great Migrations. Shift of the African American pop from over 90% rural to over 90% urban. There is also the movement of African Americans w/in the south into cities, but not at the rate of moving north.)

Westward / Sun Belt Migration (In the middle of the 20th c., Americans migrating south and west both for retirement and for jobs)

US is Republican by Area, Democrat by Population

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Week 7 Thur 11/10/16 Guest Lecture, Lee Fiorio: The Nitty Gritty of Collecting Sociodemographic Data

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Week 8 Tue 11/15/16 Urbanization, Suburbanization, & Gentrification

Urban: An area of relatively large population density settled in an area surrounded by a less dense settlement. Depends on the county and often standardized at 100,000+ or 1 million+

Size and concentration of a pop settlement

Politically designated areas (e.g. towns, cities)

Location of central features in an urban lifestyle

A concentration of economic activities or occupations

Presence of specific local institutions

Urbanization

“Degree of urbanization”: % of total pop residing in places that are called urban

“Process of urbanization”: Rate of change over time in the % of pop residing in urban places

Urbanization =/= Urban Growth

Just bc a city’s (or even many cities’) pop is growing doesn’t mean that there is urbanization

Rural areas may be growing too

Urbanization has to do w/ the relationship b/w urban and rural pop, so urban growth only equals urbanization if it is happening at a faster rate than rural growth

Caused by

Higher pop growth in urban areas than rural areas

Relatively recent phenomenon

Historically, cities have had higher mortality rates than rural areas, but in the last century this has shifted. Infectious diseases used to spread quickly in cities, but now there is increased sanitation, access to clean water, hospitals, etc.

Net movement of people from rural areas to urban areas

AKA Rural-to-urban migration

Used to be the norm. Pop would move from rural to urban areas, first smaller urban areas, then on up to larger urban areas (called “movement up the urban hierarchy”). In the last 50 years, we have seen a shift in the other direction (“down the urban hierarchy”), with increased urban-to-urban migration, counterurbanization (or rural pops growing faster than urban ones), and decentralization (or suburbanization)

Reclassification of rural areas as urban areas

Urbanization through History

Urbanization was the product of industrialization. Industrialization provided livelihoods not tied to the ownership of land. Urbanization in the US mirrors the shift from steam power to electricity and the rise of the steel industry. **When such technologies produced an excess of labor, urbanization was the result.**

**First in the Global North**

**This development and urbanization was largely capital-intensive (money intensive; a concentration of wealth in urban areas)**

**Then in the Global South**

**Most urbanization is not for manufacturing jobs, but for service jobs producing a more service-intensive urbanization (concentration of service need in urban areas)**

Urbanization goes hand in hand with the demographic transition

1990 marked the transition to where more than half of humans now live in urban areas of more than 20,000 ppl

Today

75% of the pop in the Global North is urban

46% of the pop in the Global South is urban

Globally, 37% of the pop lives in cities with over 1 million

Globally, 21% of the pop lives in cities with over 10 million

What size cities are accounting for the most urbanization?

Historically in the Global North and today in the Global South: Mega-cities

Today this is happening primarily in Asia, but also Africa. We see rapid urbanization to a single or small number of cities or city systems

Today in the Global North: Small cities

“Down the urban hierarchy”: Shift started in the 70s, strengthened in the 90s

But depends on the location. In the US, the NE urbanized first. The sunbelt didn’t start urbanizing until later and continued urbanizing longer

Mega-Cities tend to be geographically concentrated

Global North

Eastern Seaboard (Washington, DC to Boston)

Southern California (San Francisco to San Diego)

Global South

Coastal China (Beijing to Shanghai, and arguably further south)

Northern India (New Delhi to Calcutta)

Mega cities often function as city systems, producing an uneven distribution of urban growth and wealth; this increases disparity within nations

Most migration for jobs or education

Produces brain drain from rural areas: those who are most educated and ambitious leave

Remittances (money sent back to families left behind) sent back to rural areas affect rural economies

Migration is an investment

Initial cost, but long term reward in opportunities/pay

Suburbanization: Process of residential, commercial, and industrial growth and development beyond a central city

The movement of ppl out of the cities into new neighborhoods surrounding the city

What lead to suburbanization

Housing boom following depression and WWII

Too few houses

High demand for single family homes

House building industry took off

In 1938 only 5% of houses were built by large builders. By 1959, 64% of houses built by large builders

After WWII suburbs growing faster than cities ever did

Federal Gov’t Involvement

Mortgages lasted longer, required smaller down payment

GI Bill created low interest loans

Road construction

Automobile

Pre 1880s: Most ppl walked

1880s – 1920s: Rise of the Electric Street Car

1920s – Present: Dominance of the Automobile

Suburbanization could not have happened w/o Henry Ford

What does suburbia look like?

Limited access highways linking metro regions and suburbs (for commuters)

Block pattern of detached houses designed for nuclear families

Large lots (+/- 0.5 acre of land)

Concentration of economic activity into shopping malls and plazas

White

Suburbanization was historically a white phenomenon (largely due to racial covenants, also other forms of discrimination (who could and could not secure a loan, car, etc.)) This trend is slowly shifting.

Suburban lots have gotten bigger with new development over time

Why does anyone want to live there?

Larger lots

Less pollution

Less traffic

Lower house prices

More homogenous

What motivates decentralization today?

Rise in telecommunications

More working from home

Company headquarters / offices no longer have to be downtown

Displacement (gentrification is forcing some ppl out)

Gentrification: Influx of businesses and individuals with generally higher educational and income levels settling in traditionally poorer neighborhoods, then displacing the pop that was living there

Baby boomers grew up in the suburb smore than any previous cohort

As they reached financial maturity, they began to purchase and renovate cheap housing in older parts of central cities

White and upwardly mobile pops who maybe grew up in the suburbs moving back to the city

Causes rent and property values (taxes) to increase, pushing low income families and individuals out

What does gentrification look like?

“Urban revitalization”: money being invested in areas where it wasn’t before

Neighborhood turnover: a lot of ppl moving in and out

Pop of the neighborhood shifting: change in pop composition

Increased ownership: shift of rental property to owned housing

Increase in property values (or rents): costs more to live there

Why gentrification is happening in America (seems to be accelerating)

Demographic

Effect of baby boom

Childless couples (need less space, have more income)

Cultural

Pro-urban mindset (urban is hip)

Pro-green mindset (walking / biking to work is hip)

Economic

As rent goes up throughout the city, produces cascading effect

Increase in transit options; rise in the cost of gasoline

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Week 10 Tue 11/29/16 Immigrants, Refugees, & Asylum-Seekers

Refugees: Ppl outside of their home countries who’re unable to return owing to fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or adherence to a political opinion

If you are a refugee, you have the right under the agreement of 145 countries to not be returned to your home country against your will (nonrefoulement)

Note: US is only signatory to the 1967 Protocol (not the 1951 Convention)

Who Decides:

National Governments

Often follows a nation’s foreign policy (e.g. Refugees from communist countries more commonly resettled during the Cold War than other refugee groups)

Until a gov’t decides to recognize you as a refugee, you are classified as an asylum-seeker

Many countries are selective about what refugee claims they accept. Often, groups with political connections (e.g. Cubans in the 1980s) get accepted, but climate/environmental/economic refugees are not accepted.

Economic Refugees: Ppl fleeing a lack of economic opportunities in their home countires

Countries (most in Global North, who fear Global South refugees) may oppose economic refugees for fear that it opens the doors for all immigration.

It can be an economic drain for the receiving country

Climate/Environmental Refugees: Ppl fleeing loss of land and/or livelihood as a result of climate change

Ppl in Global South most affected by climate change

Rising sea levels, drought/desertification

Globally, up to 100s of millions are expected to be displaced by climate change by 2080

What happens when ppl file for an asylum claim?

1. Voluntary Repatriation (return to home country once safe)

Simultaneously the easiest and hardest of the three options. Easiest bc no one will dispute it if possible, but hardest bc in order to make it possible requires a change in the home country. Often dependent on outside political pressure, foreign policy, and $ (gov’t aid, donations, Red Cross, etc.)

E.g., recently the resettlement of Afghanis in Afghanistan in the post-Taliban era

1. Settlement in Country of First Asylum (usually a neighboring country)

Often the most practical solution, but generally puts a lot of pressure on the nation’s neighboring countries in conflict (above already high pressures from the conflict itself). Tends to concentrate large numbers of refugees in small areas (small countries / small number of countries) and puts large economic strain on the host nation. This generally relocates ppl from on Global South country to another Global South country.

E.g., Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, & Syria. About a third of Jordan’s pop is Palestinian refugees and their children. Also, Rwandan refugees in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) following the Rwandan genocide in 1994

1. Settlement in a Third Country (usually in the Global North)

Generally a movement of the Global South Refugees to Global North countries. The countries who take in the most refugees are the U.S., Canada, Australia, Sweden, and Norway. This solution often requires the political will of the host country (something that fluctuates tremendously)

E.g., Hmong refugees resettling to the U.S. after the Vietnam War

Immigration Gap: The difference b/w immigration policy and outcome

Arises from:

Shifts in economic pressures

Shifts in gov’t policies (in the U.S., swings left and right of center)

“State policies that encourage immigration have worked to undermine state attempts to control it, provoking public opposition and calls for even tighter immigration policies”

This contingent political will that is required for third country refugee resettlement is also required in overall immigration policy and fluctuates tremendously producing mismatches b/w policies and outcomes (or policies and enforcement)

Refugees come primarily from the Global South

European refugees all but gone

Latin American refugees consistently low

African refugees growing in number

Peaked in 1980 (following Vietnam war, lots of refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia) at over 200,000 refugees

Note, the drop in refugees accepted after 9/11 by 60%, due to political climate and increased scrutiny in refugee screenings after 9/11

Before 1970, U.S. didn’t regulate immigration. It was a 1875 supreme court case that gave the U.S> that right. From 1875-1921 we were figuring it out and settled on the quota system (quotas by nationl ensured most immigration was white immigration) which in 1965 changed to by hemisphere (eastere and western), focused on reuniting families (75% of immigrants), and considered the eskills of immigrants. This meant that immigration shifted rom primarily European to predominantly Latin American and Asian

Similarities and Differences b/w Immigrants and Refugees:

Refugees have less networks in the host country

Refugees are less based on self selection, so tend to be poorer (haven’t been saving up to immigrate)

Refugees tend to have less work skills (often coming from war zones)

Refugees tend to be less successful and assimilate slower tan other types of immigrants

Immigrants move for economic reasons, generally

Refugees move for political climate reasons

Internally Displaced Persons: Ppl who have been forced out of their homes due to the fear of persecution or violence, but have not left their home countries

E.g., Sudan, there is fighting in some areas, displacing some people

In 2014: 26 million (11 million new that year)

There is often less political will, resources, and money for these types of migrants. They’re often from areas w/ protracted conflicts that’re underrepresented in Western media and typically fall through the cracks in humanitarian law bc of the importance of national sovereignty

Where are refugees moving to?

In 2010, 108,000 refugees were resettled by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

71,400 to the U.S.

12,100 to Canada

8,500 to Australia

1,800 to Sweden

In 2015, 107,100 refugees resettled (66,500 to the U.S.)

Represents the third option, resettlement to a third country

On avg, the U.S. takes in the most refugees (even post 9/11), though Canada takes in a much higher % of its pop in refugees

In 2015, 200,000 refugees returned home

Mostly to Afghanistan, Somalia, and the Central African Republic

For every refugee that moves on to a third country, two are returned home

Currently, not by the country’s choice (once refugees set foot in their country, they can’t be forced to leave):

Turkey hosts 2.5 million externally displaced ppl

Pakistan hosts 1.6 million

Lebanon hosts 1.1 million

Iran hosts 979,000

Ethiopia hosts 736,000

Millions more are in limbo/in the original country of asylum

Refugees in the first country of asylum is almost always in the highest level (though many are never fully processed as refugees and remain asylum-seekers, but it has spiked tremendously in the last year

Why are countries resistant to accepting Syrian refugees?

Paris

Further context:

The refugee crisis is small compared to overall global immigration

In 2010, 214 million ppl migrated internationally (3.1% of the global pop)

Over 120 million of that was to developed countries

Most migration is

Global North to Global North (highly skilled workers)

Global South to Global South (mostly unskilled / lightly skilled workers)

And Global South to Global North (over half of immigration)

Refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced persons likely to increase due to increasing global population and increasing conflict over resources

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Week 10 Thursday 12/1/16 Population Policies

Population Policy: Gov’t policies used to manage the size, composition, and distribution of a population

Any gov’t attempt to intervene in the demographics of their country

Gov’ts focus on decreasing mortality. Mortality has decreased worldwide, but there are ongoing global attempts to bring it down further (measure of development / location on the demographic transition, improve development, standards of living, education, sanitation, access to medical services / health care, etc.) in order to improve the economy, improve morbidity, etc, so many variables go hand in hand with mortality such that improvements in mortality produce other improvements in a country

Gov’t’s focus on fertility is less straight forward. Many gov’ts care a lot about fertility, but while some are trying to decrease it, others are trying to increase it

Antinatalist Policies: Policies designed to decrease fertility

‘Natal’ means births

Reasons:

Limited resources

Low fertility is a marker of development / progress along the demographic transition

Strategies

Set strict limits on # children being born

Require bith permits in order to have children

Increase access to and education about contraception / family planning

Increase access to legal abortions

Free / incentivized sterilization

This was a policy in India for many years, though there were many allegations of forced sterilization. It attempted to target men who already had 1 or 2 children, but in practice wasn’t always as voluntary as it was intended

Improvements in access to education for women

Propaganda

U.S.: Delayed the retirement age and the start of welfare programs (medicare)

Consequences

Asia’s Missing Women

Selective abortions against females

China has 33 million more men than it does women

Pronatalist Policies: Policies designed to increase fertility

Reasons:

Need to balance pop age structure, declining pop

E.g. Japan, Singapore, Denmark

Strategies

Child tax credit / tax breaks for large families

Or additional tax on childless men and women

Free or subsidized child care

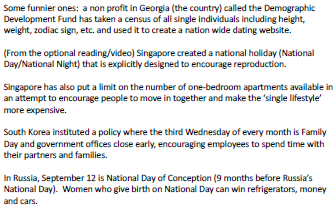
Limit access to contraception / abortion

Make divorce more difficult

Paid parental leave

Propaganda

Some have suggested increasing immigration, but this comes with all sorts of other concerns as the demographics of immigrant pops don’t (initially) match those of the host pop





Immigration policy is a de facto population policy of the U.S., Canada, and many other Global North countries

All countries manage the quantity and quality of immigrants entering the country

Unique

Has an almost immediate effect (compared with mortality / fertility policies) on pop structure and composition

Most directly impacts the size of the working pop

Often has unintended consequences (immigration gap)

Canada: Immigration accounts for approx. 70% of labor force growth in recent years



Internal migration policies are less common, but more complicated

E.g., U.S.: The forced relations of indigenous ppl onto reservations

E.g., China’s Hukou system

Everyone assigned citizenship to a particular locality (children assigned based on mother’s citizenship)

These localities were divided b/w rural and urban

To move from a rural locality to an urban locality you had to apply

W/o permission, you cannot access health care, education, or other social services in new urban locality and risk deportation

Strategies

Forced relocations

Limit where ppl can access social services

Free land in particular places

Tax breaks / economic incentives

Propaganda