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1 Module 10

1.1 Developing Countries

- Economic Development
 - Economic development can be indicated by GDP and GDP per capita
 - GDP/Capita doesn’t account for income inequality, which is accounted for by the Gini Index

- Sub-national Variations
 - Components of Index:
 - * Life expectancy at birth
 - * Expected years of schooling
 - * GNI (Gross National Income) per capita
 - Looking at national indices is not as specific or accurate, many times
- First, Second, Third World
 - Used during the cold war but no longer used by political scientists
 - West = first world
 - Second world = communist
 - Third world = everyone else
- Middle and Lower Income Country
 - Middle-Income Country: Historically less-developed country that experienced significant economic growth and democratization
 - Lower-Income Country: A country that lacks significant economic development or political institutionalization, or both
 - Not static definitions, imply a path along which a country is moving
- Roots of Middle & Lower Income Countries
 - Imperialism: projecting power outside the state in order to gain resources
 - Colonialism: A greater degree of physical occupation by the imperial power (not just a skeleton crew in charge of shipping goods back home)
- Historical Roots of Middle and Lower Income Countries
 - Spain & Portugal: Central/South America
 - Britain & France: North America
 - Japan: Chunks of Asia
 - Various European Powers: N Africa -> Most of Africa -> Middle East -> Asia

- What Imperialism Meant:
 - Imposition of imperial power's institutions obliterating original institutions
 - Borders reflected imperial country's strategic interests, not geographic or demographic realities
 - Imperial power's state was trying to "civilize" or "modernize" territory
 - Bureaucratic structures established by imperial powers (National language, legal code, administrative capacities)

1.2 Developing Countries (cont.)

1.2.1 Imperialism & Culture

- Identity shift: before imperialism, people held identities based on clans, religion, econ status, gender, etc. The imperial powers constructed and imposed new national/ethnic identities for conquered territories based on ascribed racial characteristics. These identities were used for classification and admin purposes, distribution of resources to indigenous populations
- Religion transplant
 - Catholocism in Latin America
 - Islam in North Africa, Mediterranean
 - Protestantism in North America
- Gender roles transplanted as well, diminished status of women and took out matriarchies
- Legacies of imperialism: Belgium -> Hutus & Tutsis -> Rwandan Genocide

1.2.2 Imperialism & Culture

- Production & Dependence
 - Traditional socieities turned into cash socieities, stemming from th resource needs of imperial powers
 - Significant mercantilist economies
 - Massive companies acted as states in territories (Dutch East India Company)

1.2.3 Development in the Modern Era

- Third wave of democratization
- Colonies gained independence in the 1960s under harsh conditions to take full autonomy over

2 10.09.20

Donald Trump, during his time as president of the United States has upheld American democracy by abiding by the systems of checks and balances in the branches of government and actively contributing to passing policy that he promised during the 2016 election cycle. Democracies are based largely upon governments following the will of the people and the argument can be made that when Donald Trump was elected in 2016, the people wanted the policies he promised.

3 Module 8

3.1 Developed Democracies

- Post-modern or post-material values: values things more than just the ability to live from day to day; Increasing quality of life through high mass consumption and self-actualization
- Began and most prevalent in Europe, least prevalent in Africa w NA, SA in between
- Economic development often supports democratic development but does not always relate
- Human Development Index shows that just because a country is rich doesn't mean wealth is evenly distributed
- Gini Index can be used to show inequality, Social democracies have low gini scores
 - US is an anomaly here
 - COVID shows that death rate is extremely low for mercantile democracy

3.2 The EU & Germany

3.2.1 History of the EU

- Began as the European Coal and Steel Community (1951)
- Started with France, Germany, Italy, Benelux
- Added European Economic Community & European Atomic Energy Community (1957) Treaty of Rome
- Brought the whole thing together with the Single European Act (1986)
- Single European Act -> Maastricht Treaty (1991)
- EU declared (1993)
- Currently 27 member states

3.2.2 Structure of the EU

- European Council - heads of govt of each member
- Council of the EU - Main legislative body, crafts legislation and budget w parliament
- EU Parliament - elected by citizens of respective member states, shares duties w council
- Court of Justice of the EU - hears cases brought by/against member states, EU citizens, companies, etc.
- Court of Auditors - controls EU budget
- European Central Bank - forms EU econ and monetary policy, manages Euro

3.2.3 Germany & The EU

- Largest pop of EU members
- Highest GDP of EU members
- Second highest employment rate, third lowest unemployment rate with a national min wage

4 Module 7

4.1 Comparing the US & UK

UK	US
Parliamentary system	Presidential system
Single Member District Majoritarian System	SMD + Majoritarian system
No single written constitution	constitution est. 1787
Limited local govt. some devolved authority	Federal system w state powers
3 Branches of Govt. + Crown (Ceremonial)	3 Branches of gove
No checks and balances, sep. of powers	Sep. of powers
House of Commons, House of Lords	House of Rep, Senate

- Both are democracies

5 Module 6

5.1 Democratic Institutions

5.1.1 Legislatures

- Forum for national political Debate
- Where laws are proposed or passed
- Bicameral (two houses)
 - Senate & House in US
 - * House of Lords & Commons in the UK
- Unicameral
 - Single house more likely to be found in smaller and more centralized democracies
 - Sfound in Norway, South Koera

5.1.2 Judiciary

- Central to democracy's rule of law
- Different types of courts and organizations of courts

- Some countries have a constitutional court solely to interpret constitutional legality, this is shown through judicial review
- Not all countries have a supreme court that exercises judicial review

5.1.3 Executives

- Head of State
 - Represents the government on the national/intl stage, mainly symbolic
- Head of Government
 - Focuses on policy-making
- President of the US is both head of state and government
- Types of Executive systems
 - Parliamentary
 - Presidential
 - Semi-Presidential

Presidential	Parliamentary
Limited government (Separation of powers)	High policy-making efficiency
Checks and Balances -> Gridlock	Fusion of divisions != Gridlock
Popularly-elected executive	Executive: leader of largest party
Fixed terms, no long term grip	Parties can hold power for long times
Elections are candidate-based	Single party loyalty (?)

5.2 Electoral Systems

5.2.1 Single-member District (SMD)

- Also called the “first past the post” or “winner take all” system
- Voting for candidates directly instead of for a party
- Most likely to result in a two-party system
 - Called Duverge’s Law

5.2.2 Proportional Representation (PR)

- Made of multi-member districts (mmd) - more than 1 person elected from ea. electoral district
- People vote for parties more so than individuals
- Votes are ranked for parties
- Proportion of the vote for a particular party wins the party certain amounts of seats
- Tends to result in multiple parties winning seats, generally leading to electoral thresholds

5.2.3 Mixed Electoral Systems

- A combination of SMD and PR systems
- Ranked voting
 - Alternative Vote - Australia
 - Single Transferrable Vote - Ireland

5.2.4 Referenda and Initiatives

- Some countries put political decisions in the hand of the people through a referendum
- Can be seen as a cop-out by legislators and executives back to the people
- Referenda can also be constitutionally-mandated as in Ireland
- Initiatives are political decisions put to the people due to a petition
- Certain number of people need to sign a petition before a vote

6 Module 5

6.1 Political Economy

- Political Economy: The study of how politics and economics are related
- Components:

- Markets
- Property
- Public goods
- Taxation
- Fiscal Policy
- Regulation
- Trade
- Public Goods & Social ExpendituresL
 - Public goods: Those goods provided or secured by the state and are available for everyone
 - Social expenditure: The state's provision of public benefits or welfare
 - * All states have some kind of social expenditure
- Taxation
 - Mostly needed to fund state activities
 - Different kinds of taxes at different levels
 - Some countries provide goods and services mostly from revenues from taxation
- Regulations
 - Rules or orders that set the boundaries of a given procedure
 - Costs of compliance
 - Costs of monitoring
 - Costs of non-compliance
- Trade & Economic Development
 - Free Trade: Trade among countries wherein no country restricts trade from any other country
 - * by levying import tariffs/duties
 - * through imposition of quotas
 - * by providing subsidies to its own domestic firms
 - * by introducing other non-tariff barriers
 - Trade that is free from barriers is theorized to improve economic development/innovation through the use of a comparative advantage

6.2 Varieties of Capitalism

- Advantages of market systems
 - very dynamic
 - high levels of productivity
- Disadvantages of market systems
 - Variability
 - Negative market swings can have a domino effect
 - Negative social externalities (inequality, unemployment, etc)
- Political-Economic Systems
 - Liberal Democracy
 - Social Democracy
 - Mercantile Democracy
 - Communism
- Liberal Democracy: An ideology and political system that favors limited state role in society and the economy and places a high priority on individual political and economic freedom
- Social Democracy: A political-economic system where freedom and equality are balanced through state management of economy and provision of social expenditures
 - features corporatism where government, firms, and workers have a tripartite relationship
 - often called a coordinated market economy
- Mercantile Democracy: State controls economy
 - State owns parts or all of industry
 - Heavy regulations, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers to foster and protect domestic industry
 - Little social expenditure, low taxes
 - Allows for rapid economic growth (Asian TIGER countries) and often export oriented
- No single type of democracy is better than another- some simply align with certain interests

7 Module 4

7.1 Nations & Society

- Goals of nation-building:
 - Capacity
 - Legitimacy
 - Identity
- Society: “A collection of people bound by shared institutions that define how relations should be conducted
- Types of Identity:
 - Primordial (genetic)
 - Ascribed (given by others)
 - Socially constructed (develops over time)
- Identity is not inherently political but can be politicized
- Citizenship: An individual or group’s relation to the state
- Different states have different citizenship regimes
 - Allowance of dual citizenship
 - Types of naturalization process
- Identity as an Institution
 - Identities comprise kinds of institutions
 - Identities are sticky
 - Politicization of identities increases probability of conflict
- Ethnic conflict: Conflict between ethnic groups that struggle to achieve goals at each other’s expense
- National Conflict: Conflict in which one or more groups within a country develops clear aspirations for political independence, clashing with others as a result

7.2 Political Culture & Ideology

- Political culture is very difficult to define and is relative
 - can be considered an informal institution
 - may be rooted in culture or religion
 - developed from an early age
- Political attitudes: how one sees the operations of the state and its institutions
 - Radical, liberal, conservative, reactionary
 - Majority are around center
 - Liberal: Seek to change society through institutional adjustments
 - Constitution: Prefer continuity, resist change
 - Radicals and Reactionaries: generally outside institutions, may use violence
- Attitudes are relative to political culture
 - A liberal in the US = a conservative in France
- Political ideologies: what one views as the fundamental goals of politics
 - Communism -> Social Democracy -> Liberalism -> Fascism -> Anarchy
 - Here, liberalism supports political choice, not political attitudes
 - Social democracy supports greater state intervention
 - Communism, Fascism, and Anarchy are non-democratic (radical or reactionary)
- Socialist definition
 - Communist parties of the former Soviet bloc (non-democratic) described as socialist
 - Nazi (extreme right) stood for national socialist party
 - Social democrat parties of advanced democracies are democratic

8 09.02.20

8.1 State Development

- Europe v the New World
 - Compare the state development of European, “old-world” countries and “new world” countries“
 - * Old world countries tend to be more imperialistic while new countries have a common exp of being colonies
 - * New world countries were composed of different types of people while Old world countries had a shared history
- Feudalism: Geographic proximity and increasing power of feudal lords -> challenges between feudal properties were likely, so organization of resources and capabilities was key to survival
- Feudalism led to increased collectivism, translating to:
 - large, active labor organizations
 - large, state-provided social welfare
 - emphasis on production of higher quality goods instead of new innovation

9 Module 3

9.1 Institutions and States

9.1.1 Institutions

- Institution: Institutions are formal and informal rules that structure the relationship among individuals
- Can have legal or social forces
- Institutions are resistant to change but can change as a
 - response to outside forces
 - response to internal pressures
 - response to effects of other institutions

9.1.2 The State

- An organization that maintains a legitimate monopoly of force over a certain territory and its population
- A set of political institutions sets policies for the territory and its population
- Sovereignty: The ability for a state to carry out actions/policies within a territory independently from external actors or internal rivals/challengers
- Issues of autonomy and capacity:
 - Autonomy: the ability for the state to wield its power independently of the public
 - Capacity: the ability for the state to accrue and utilize sufficient resources to carry out basic tasks and responsibilities

9.1.3 Definitions

1. General

- State: governing structure's legitimate expression of sovereignty/main political organization of a country
- Regime: Informal institutions that guide how a state operates
- Government: Collection of actors in charge of carrying out political decisions of the regime and in the interest of the state
- Country: More generic; refers to the political collectivity of a sovereign territory
- Nation: Refers to a group of people bound together by some trait who seek to establish and express political interests
- Nation != Country

2. Strength of States

- Institutional Capabilities
 - Strong States: Has good institutional foundations; these institutions function well
 - Weak States: Does not have good institutional foundations, its institutions do not function well

- Failed States: Institutions so weak that they basically collapse and have no sovereignty
- Organizational Structure
 - Strong states maintain a fair amount of centralized control
 - Weak states hand down authority to local institutions and are decentralized

9.2 Legitimacy & Sovereignty

- Legitimacy: a value whereby something or someone is recognized and accepted by a large portion of the population as right and proper (is highly subjective)
- Types of legitimacy:
 - Traditional legitimacy: embodies historical myths/legends and continues from past to present
 - Charismatic legitimacy: Built on the force of ideas and appeals embodied by a leader
 - Rational-Legal legitimacy: Based on a system of laws and procedures that are institutionalized
- Sources of Legitimacy:
 - Conferred by the ruler to a ruler, government, or state
 - Ascribed to a state or ruler by other states or rulers (prerequisite for intl. cooperation)
 - Ascribed to a state or ruler by organizations/non-state actors
- Legitimacy can often be used to push for change

10 08.26.20

10.1 Defining a Good Society

- Although observable, empirical assessments may differ from person to person, depending upon factors that may distort individual observation.
- Multiple factors contribute to whether a society is “good” or not, critical to comparing countries and political systems

11 Module 2

11.1 Video 1

11.1.1 “Traditional Approach”

- Focus on a “formal-legal” aspects of political institutions
- Mostly a categorizing exercise with little analysis
- Many European ex-pats were these scholars

11.1.2 Modern Era (1960s-1980s)

- Scholars stop describing, start comparing
- Behavioral Revolution - emphasis on individual, group behavior, not static institutions
- Gave rise to “developmentalism” or “modernization theory”
 - Proposed that a state develops economically, political and social development follows
 - Functionalism (functions of differently societal elements lay foundation for growth)

11.1.3 Development (1960s-1980s)

- 5 stages each society goes through for development:
- Traditional society (no mass production)
- Preconditions for economic take-off (advent of industrialization and mass production)
- Take-off (dynamic economic growth)
- Drive to maturity (long era of econ growth, modern tech usage)
- Age of high mass consumption (everyon is within driving distance of McDonalds (most places))

11.1.4 Critiques of Behavioralisms/Developmentalism

- Ethnocentric and ideologically driven
- Creates dependency: capitalism creates a situation where underdeveloped countries depend on developed countries
- Developmentalist theories tried to be a one-size-fit-all theory which wasn't able to be applied to all individual case studies

11.1.5 Post-Behavioralism (1990s-Present)

- Development of middle-range theories instead of one single theory
- Diversity of approaches (qualitative, quantitative, case studies)
- Takes culture and historical context into consideration
- Rational choice theory applied
- Political economy: the state can have a varying role in economic matters

11.1.6 New Institutionalism (Past 25 years)

- Institutions are the nexus of political action
- Institutions are dynamic that interact over time w other variables
- Institutions comprise the surrounding environment & sentiment

11.2 Video 2

11.2.1 The Study of Comparative Politics

- Comparative politics implies a method of study or an approach to an analysis, not a single theory
- greatest challenge is that events occur in real time with unreplicable environments
- events in politics can not be replicated to test for validity

11.2.2 Goals

- Goal: To assess which factors cause a certain outcome by comparing or contrasting cases
- Cases: One of the group of things (events, states, actors, etc.) to be studied
- Variable: a factor that changes over time or in different cases
 - Independent var: causal var
 - Dependent var: outcome var
- Causal relationships can be shown as:
 - Cause -> effect
 - Independent var -> dependent var
 - Explanators var -> outcome
 - x var -> y var
- Hypothesis: a possible answer that explains a causal effect

11.2.3 Challenges

- Goal: to determine causality, not just correlation
- In comparative politics, the researcher may not be able to:
 - have a constant
 - measure certain variables
 - anticipate certain events
 - disentangle one variable from others
 - Access to cases & information
 - * Language barriers
 - * Time & funding
 - * Sufficient cases (and selection bias)
 - * IRB (Institutional Review Board)
- Correlation: when var A occurs with var B, one is not caused by the other
- Endogeneity: when it cannot be determined whether an outcome was caused by another factor or the outcome caused that factor to occur

11.3 Video 3

11.3.1 Most Similar Systems Design (MSS)

- A method in which as many independent vars as possible are held constant to explain a political outcome: similar cases, different outcomes can help isolate a variable
- Special Variation of MSS: Within-Case Comparison
 - Single case analyzed over time or in different geographical areas
 - Breaks up a single case into subparts and allows for comparison

11.3.2 Most-Different Systems Design (MDS)

- Looks at cases that are different from one another and observes why the same political outcome is observed as a method of understanding how to isolate a single causal variable

11.3.3 Overview

- Probable causal explanations (hypotheses): goal of these comparative approaches
- Theories can be built from the strongest hypothesis
- Theories can further be generalized based on the case