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1 Module 6

1.1 Democratic Institutions

1.1.1 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

1.1.2 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

1.1.3 Executives

- Head of State
 - Represents the government on the national/intl stage, mainly symbolid
- 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

Limited government (Separation of powers)

Checks and Balances -> Gridlock

Popularly-elected executive

Fixed terms, no long term grip

Elections are candidate-based

Parliamentary

High policy-making efficiency

Fusion of divisions != Gridlock

Executive: leader of largest party

Parties can hold power for long times

Single party loyalty (?)

1.2 Electoral Systems

1.2.1 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

1.2.2 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

1.2.3 Mixed Electoral Systems

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

1.2.4 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

2 Module 5

2.1 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

2.2 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

3 Module 4

3.1 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 develop clear aspirations for political independence, clashing with others as a result

3.2 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

4 09.02.20

4.1 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

5 Module 3

5.1 Institutions and States

5.1.1 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

5.1.2 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

5.1.3 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

5.2 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

6 08.26.20

6.1 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

7 Module 2

7.1 Video 1

7.1.1 "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

7.1.2 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)

7.1.3 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))

7.1.4 Critiques of Behavioralism/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

7.1.5 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

7.1.6 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

7.2 Video 2

7.2.1 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

7.2.2 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 \rightarrow effect
 - Independent var \rightarrow dependent var
 - Explanators var \rightarrow outcome
 - x var \rightarrow y var
- Hypothesis: a possible answer that explains a causal effect

7.2.3 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

7.3 Video 3

7.3.1 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

7.3.2 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

7.3.3 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