Introduction to Politics – Democracy, Chapter 5 (Regimes)

Democracies, there is not only one type of Democracy

Crucial points:

* To create democracy
* To maintain democracy

Swift of an idea from a negative to a more positive and finally (today) became the most important ideas

* Even those countries which are not democracies label themselves as democracies (positive connotation)
* 60% of the states are democracies but not everywhere democracy is the same type

1964-2005 3rd Wave of Democratization

How can we measure democracies?

Two different approaches to defining democracy

* Procedural definitions: simply specifies the minimal electoral criteria (the most spread)
* Substantive definition (normative approach): stresses the goals of a democratic regime (the common good). Democracy has to to grant the common good

Schumpeter… (aim of a policy maker)

According to him… In some way tries to understand and assess the feature of democracy

1. The chief executive is elected (executive is the government)  
   It has to be elected directly (Presidential System or Semi-Presidential System)/indirectly (Parliamentary System)
2. The legislature is elected (parliament)
3. There is more than one party in competing elections
4. Al alternation in power under identical electoral rules takes place (**peaceful** turnover of power)

Comparative Politics

Factors that contributed to a new interest in comparing democracies

1. Scholarship  
   Lijphart’s distinction between majoritarian and consensus model

Majoritarian and Consensus models of democracy

Party system  
- Two-Party system 🡪 Two big parties that decide elections  
- Multiparty System 🡪 Many parties, even small ones (they can be strong even if they do not have a large percentage of votes)  
  
Interest group (interact with the government)

1. The third wave of democratization  
   - Starting 1974, peaking after 1989
2. Institutional engineering  
   - The challenge of building democracies from scratch
3. Neo-Institutionalism  
   - Shift of interest from sources to effects of democracy  
   - Research interest from quantity to quality (performance, legitimacy, effectiveness)

Explaining Democracy: 3 sets of explanations for why countries become democratic

1. Social and Economic Factors  
   Correlation between levels of wealth in a country and democracy… but some exceptions and…are the countries more likely to be a democracy because they are wealthy or are the country more likely to be wealthy because they are democracies?
2. Cultural Factors  
   - Democracy is more common in some cultures (e.g. western cultures)  
   - Economic developments leads to cultural change (emergence of civic culture) which in turn leads to democracy
3. Strategic Bargaining between political elites and their citizens  
   Argument: if the conditions are right authoritarian leaders are forced to establish democratic institutions in order to avoid conflict with a mass group of citizens who are demanding democratic representation and economic equality   
   - E.g. Bismarck and Factories 🡪 insurance for the illnesses and accidents during working hours, even though it was not a democratic regime  
   Conviction in democratic values but the other type of regime benefits them more

Developing democracy

According to Dahl (1966) there have been three great milestones in the development of democracies

1. Incorporation  
   The extension of suffrage   
   - Box 5.1
2. Representation
3. Organized Opposition

The crisis of democracy