

Comparative Politics

Week 2

02/13/2020

Junlong Aaron ZHOU, NYU

About me

- Junlong “Aaron” Zhou
- 3rd year phd student in Department of politics
- Focus: political methodology, comparative politics with regional focus on China
- Email: jlzhou@nyu.edu
- Office hour: Thursday 14-15; 17-18, at Room 317, 19W4
 - Book my office hour here: <https://calendly.com/jlzhou/15min>

About recitation

- All questions and answers are welcomed
- Interrupt me anytime you get confused
- Be active in discussion

Before we start..

- Familiar with game theory?
- How do you think about exist-voice-loyalty game and collective action game?

Today

- State
 - What is a state
 - State v.s. Mafia
 - Why do we need state
 - A model: state of nature game
- Regime
 - Democracy: definition
 - Some examples

State

A Monty Python clip: army vs. mafia

- Some questions
 - Why does Tilly link the state to the mafia?
 - What are the mobsters offering in this video?
 - Is this similar or not similar to what a state does?
- Video: <https://www.dailymotion.com/embed/video/x75bt6>
- <http://www.ibras.dk/montypython/episode08.htm> (a script if you like)

What is a state?

- Webb's definition?
- Tilly's definition?
- NB: "State" is different from "regime", "government"
- What are the difference between state and mafia?

Why do we need state

- Rethink collective action and prisoner's dilemma
- What if we don't have a state?

Model

FIGURE 4.2

State of Nature Game with Payoffs

		<i>B</i>	
		Refrain	Steal
<i>A</i>	Refrain	3, 3	1, 4
	Steal	4, 1	2, 2

Note: Player *A*'s (the row player's) payoffs are shown first in each cell; player *B*'s (the column player's) payoffs are shown second. A comma separates the payoffs for the players in each cell.

Model

FIGURE 4.4

Solving the State of Nature Game II

		<i>B</i>	
		Refrain	Steal
<i>A</i>	Refrain	3, 3	1, 4
	Steal	<u>4</u> , 1	<u>2</u> , 2

Model

FIGURE 4.9

Choosing between the State of Nature and Civil Society

State of Nature			Civil Society		
<i>B</i>			<i>B</i>		
Refrain			Refrain		
Steal			Steal		
<i>A</i>	Refrain	3, 3	1, <u>4</u>		
	Steal	<u>4</u> , 1	<u>2</u> , <u>2</u>		

Civil Society			
<i>B</i>			
Refrain			
Steal			
<i>A</i>	Refrain	<u>3 - t</u> , <u>3 - t</u>	<u>1 - t</u> , 4 - p - t
	Steal	4 - p - t, <u>1 - t</u>	2 - p - t, 2 - p - t

Real world situation?

- State of nature?
 - Robust state?
 - Weak state?
 - Predatory state?
-
- Do you agree or disagree with the analogy between state and mafia?

Democracy

Different definition of democracy

- Minimalist v.s maximalist
 - DD score, Polity IV score, Freedom house score
-
- Let's look some examples

Different definitions of democracy are reflected in the varying indices used to measure it

- **Democracy-Dictatorship Score**
 - Binary
 - Democracy if:
 - The chief executive (president or prime minister) is elected;
 - The legislature is elected;
 - More than one party competes in elections;
 - **An alternation in power (from one party to another) has taken place under the electoral rules.**
- **Polity IV**
 - Ranges from -10 (most autocratic) to 10 (most democratic)
 - Sometimes binned into Autocracy/Dictatorship (-10 to -6), Anocracy/Mixed (-6 to 6), (Democracy (6 to 10)
 - Score based on expert scoring on five different dimensions:
 - Competitiveness of Executive Recruitment
 - Openness of Executive Recruitment
 - Restrictions on political participation
 - Competitiveness of elections (beyond executive)
 - **Checks and balances (constraints) on the executive**
- **Freedom House**
 - Scored as “Free”, “Partly Free”, “Not Free”
 - Scores based on expert judgments about:
 - Political rights: free and fair elections, right to vote, right to run for office, etc.
 - **Civil rights: freedom of expression, right to associate, equal protection under the law, etc.**

Example 1:

Example 1:

- Executive recruitment:
 - Country X's longtime dissident **A1** won the 1997 presidential election on behalf of the **party A** marking the first-ever shift of political power to the opposition from the ruling parties in the nation's history. The elections were deemed free and fair by independent observers, with three major candidates competing for votes, in campaigns that were not marred by reports of violence or fraud.
 - 2002 presidential elections resulted in the narrow victory of **party A** candidate **A2** (48.9%) over **party B** candidate **B1** (46.6%); the election included four other minor candidates. **A2** was constitutionally prohibited from running for a third term in the 2007 presidential election; the election was won by **party B** candidate **B2**.

Example 1:

- Executive constraint:
 - The present constitution subjects executive authority to substantial constraints by the legislature. Legislative consent is required for the president's appointment of a prime minister. The president may not dissolve the legislature. The president may declare martial law, but he or she must repeal it at the legislature's request. The legislature has the authority to propose the impeachment of the president, recommend the removal of the prime minister and other Cabinet members, and investigate the government.
 - After the 2000 elections, President **A1's party A** (42% of the seats) remained second to the **party B**

Example 1:

- Political participation:
 - Country X's political parties are relatively young and still fluid in nature; all major parties active in 2000 were organized between 1990 and 1995. The parties retain factional, parochial, and personalistic qualities, although there is a discernible trend toward the development of broader and more inclusive political blocs. Some members of the security forces were responsible for occasional human rights abuses. Whereas human rights and civil liberties remain subject to potential restrictions envisaged by the National Security Law (NSL), observers point out improvements in the government's respect to human rights of its citizens.
 - The country's first ever impeachment bill was sponsored by the opposition **party A** and **party B** on the grounds that **A2** had violated his constitutional neutrality by a statement in February encouraging people to vote for the **party C** in legislative elections

Example 2:

Example 2:

- Executive recruitment:
 - Multiparty elections have been a defining feature of the country Y state since 1959. Despite these elections, the party A has established a hegemonic one-party system.
 - While the public appeal of the party A cannot be denied (it has received over sixty percent of the popular votes in every election since 1968), the party A has used its position of power to control the media, intimidate its opposition through legal persecution, and organize the electoral institutions of democracy to their own advantage.
 - Despite achieving near forty percent of the popular vote in the last five elections, the opposition has been unable to win more than four seats in parliament in any given election. However, while the party A has used its institutional power to bias the electoral process in their favor, these elections cannot be classified as fraudulent. Contributing to the success of the party A has been the weakness of the opposition parties and the government's ability to successfully deliver economic prosperity to its citizens.

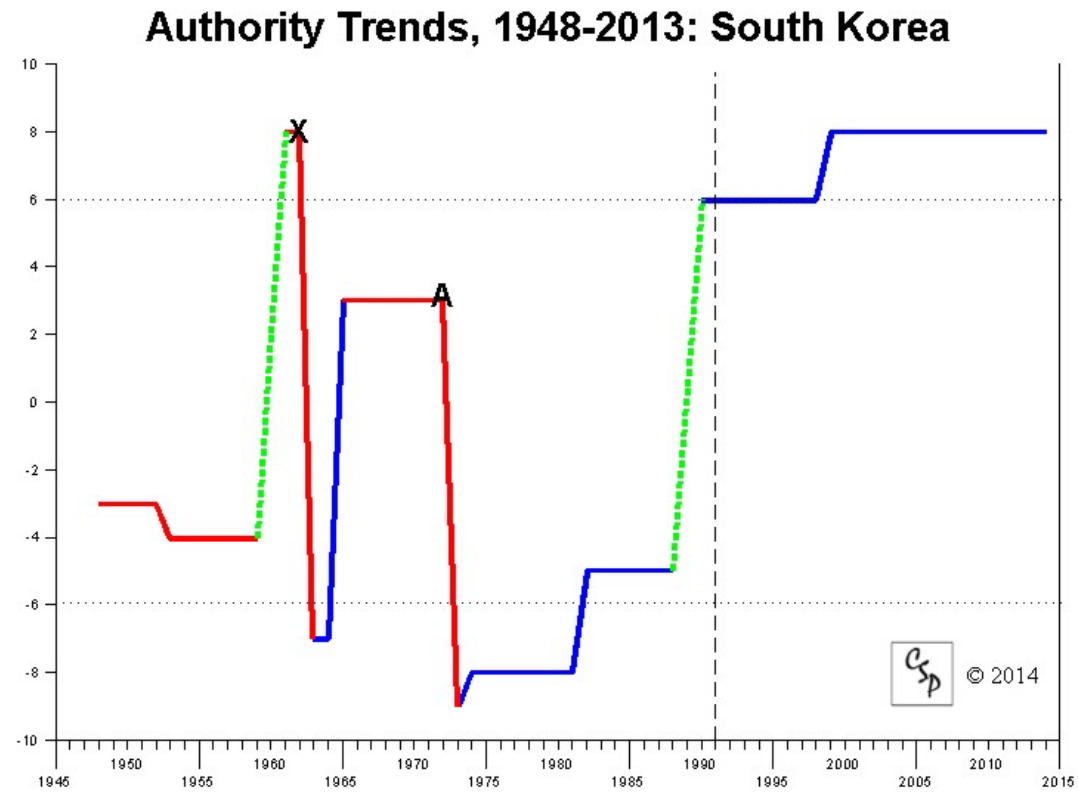
Example 2:

- Executive constraint:
 - Over the past forty years the **party A** has created a hegemonic party system under the guise of democratic governance.
 - The **party A** dominates all three branches of government and the bureaucracy. While there can be no denial that premier **A** has been a dominant political force in domestic politics since independence, the **party A** is no longer dependent on his leadership to maintain its hegemony.
 - A collective leadership style has defined the post-**A** government. While factional blocs within the **party A** threaten its unity, the policy of collective responsibility, as well as the strong powers of the party whip, has kept the party united.

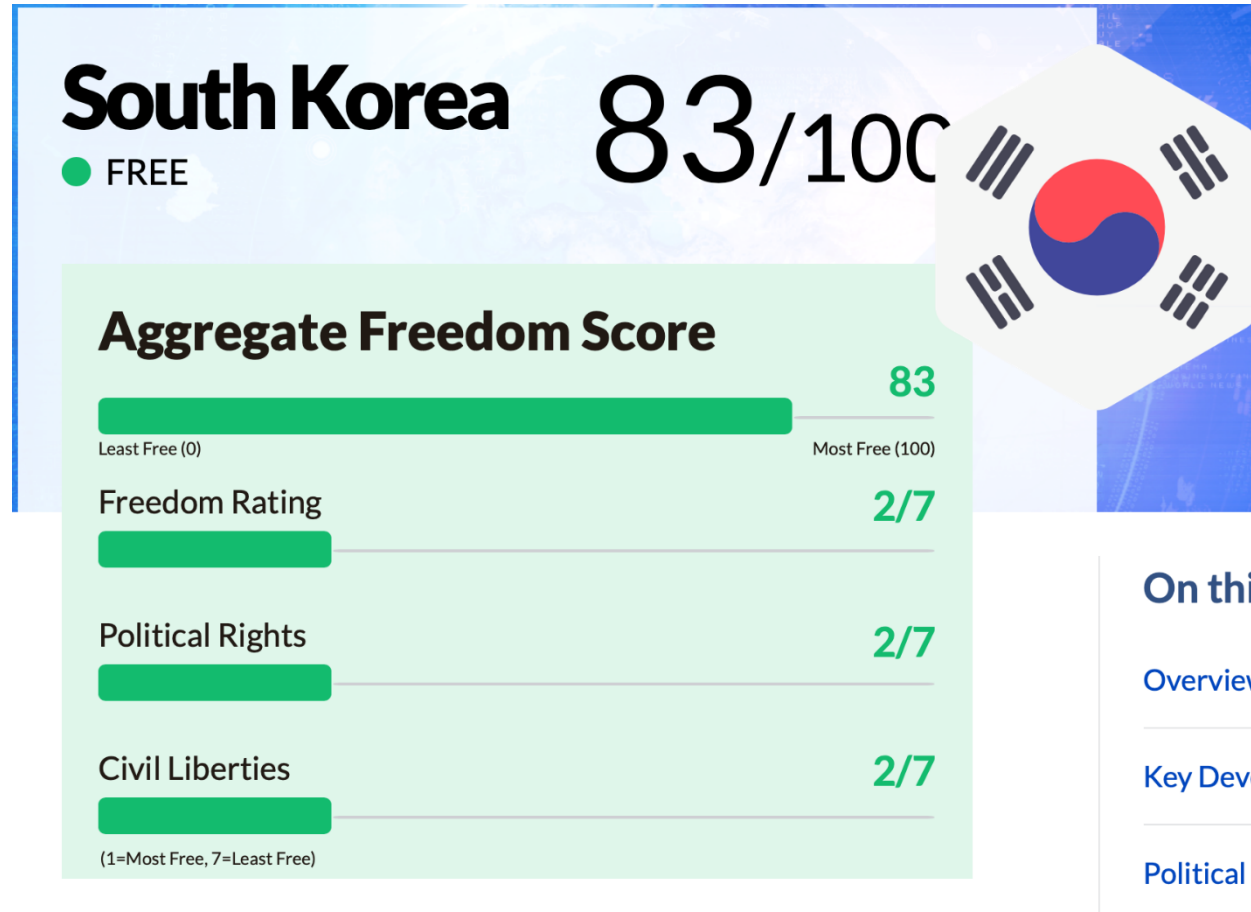
Example 2:

- Political participation:
 - There are more than twenty registered parties in country Y but they are all overshadowed by the **party A**. With the exception of a brief period of competitive politics between 1963 and 1965, the political landscape has been characterized by **party A** hegemony.
 - Dissent against **party A** dominance has been minimal. The weakness of civil society combined with **party A** control of the media and intimidation of opposition viewpoints has produced a classic illiberal democracy.
 - Opposition parties and interest groups are tolerated so long as they do not threaten the position and role of the ruling regime. The **party A** Government has long used the country's libel laws to economically punish those individuals who dare to speak out against the country's political leadership.
 - In 2009, legislature passed a measure that would require police permission for public assemblies of all sizes, removing a previous threshold of five or more people. In addition to these limits on political association, the government has also used the threat of libel suits and its influence over the courts and the media to limit any significant challenge to **party A** political hegemony.

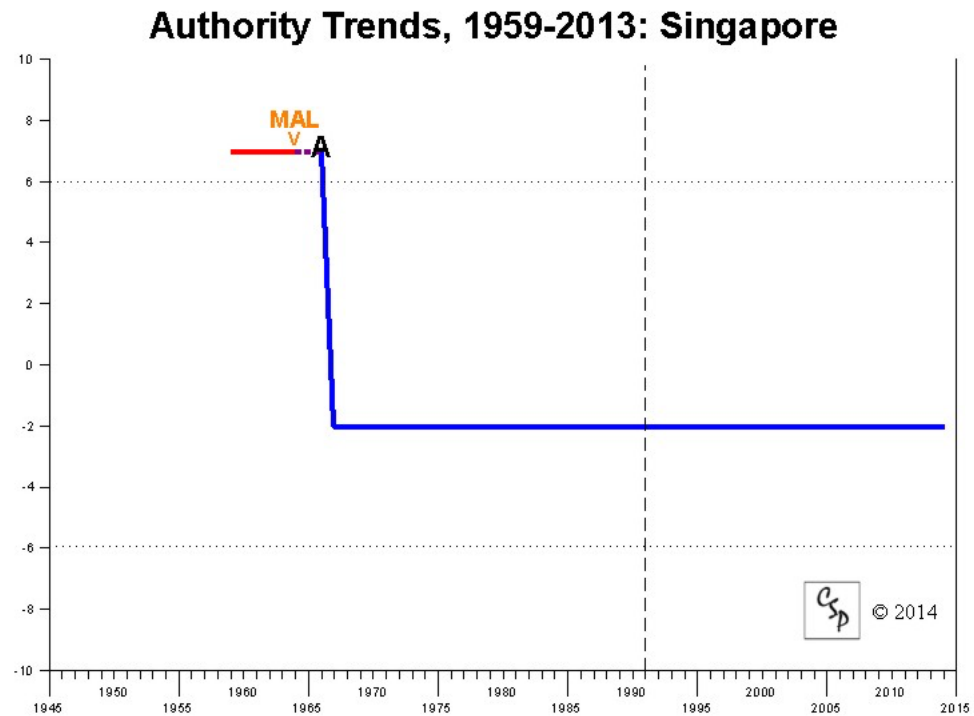
Example 1



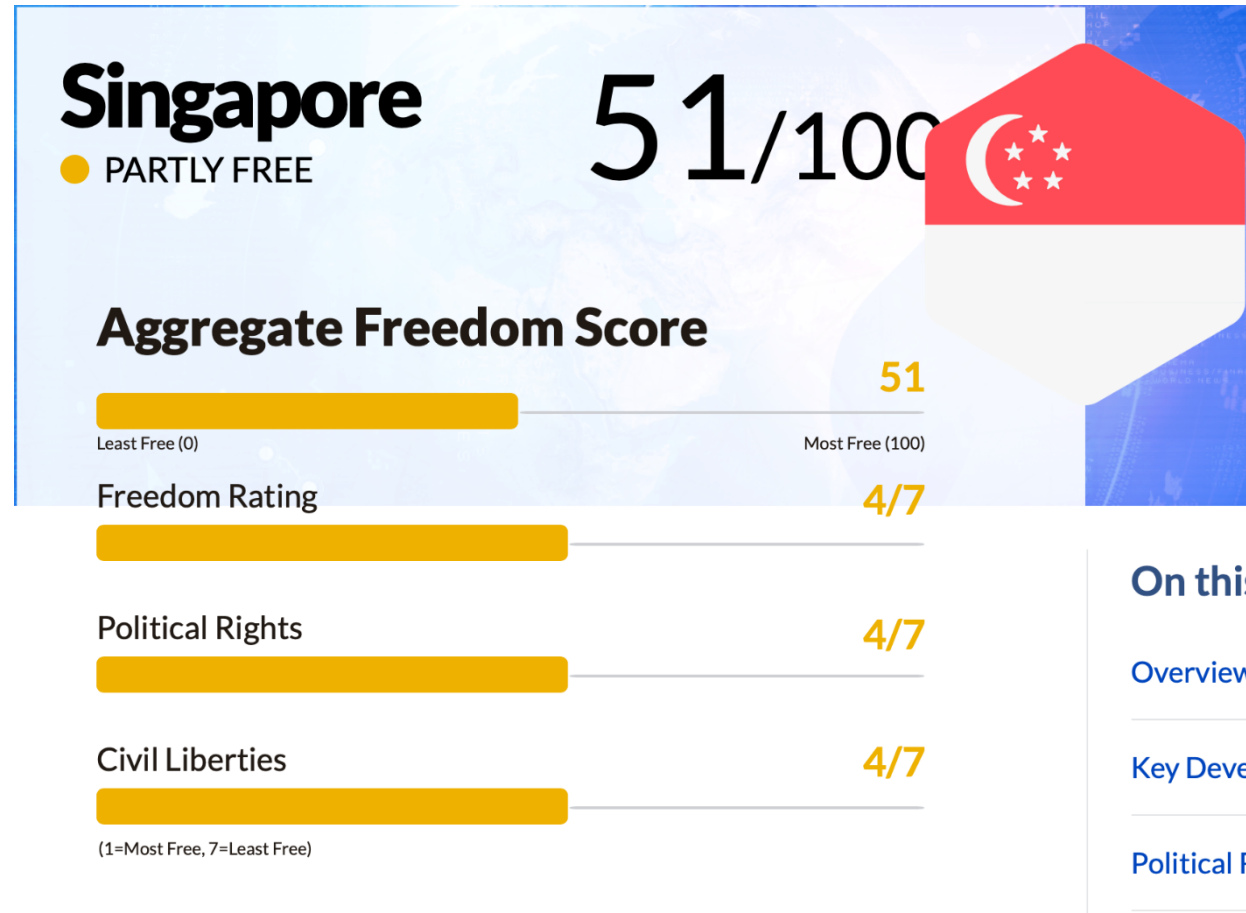
Example 1



Example 2



Example 2



Final Discussion

- Why don't we have a single measure of democracy?
- What's good and what's bad about existing measures?
- Where's the difficulty of categorizing a country as a democracy or not?