

Discussion questions:

What is the difference between structuralist and voluntarist approaches? Where do this week's authors fall?

Dahl

Why is democracy important? What are the key virtues of democratic competition that each author highlights? Are these part of the definition of democracy or do they result from democratic processes?

Does the sequence in which a country becomes a democracy matter? Why?

How do the dispersal of resources throughout society affect the likelihood of democracy

Lipset -- gone over in detail by Steve, not going to spend a lot of time on it in section

How does a country's economic development impact its probability of sustaining democracy?

Huntington --

How does culture impact the probability of democracy in a country? Mechanisms? What are the weaknesses of this argument?

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How do 1). economic development [Lipset 1960] 2). social classes [Moore, 1966] 3). leaders [di Palma 1990] 4). culture [Huntington 1996] cause democracy? What are mechanisms by which these variables act? (You can think of mechanisms as the means by which the independent variable causes the change in the dependent variable. For example, as Prof. Levitsky noted today in lecture, Lipset argues that urbanization is one mechanism by which economic development causes democracy.)

Does it make sense to expect the same factors to cause the transition of democracy and the persistence of democracy?

Should we expect newly democratizing countries to follow the same paths as those taken by countries in the 18th and 19th centuries?