

Week 5: Democracy and Authoritarianism

Rakeen Mabud

Notes:

- Few minutes to discuss papers:
 - o Focus on thesis statement and a strong argument – check out the grading guidelines
 - o For 11am section – should turn in paper at the section
 - o For 12pm section - paper is due at the end of lecture; Shelby will have box
 - o Turn in electronic copies to course dropbox within 24 hours of paper due date
 - o Will have extra office hours from 9:30-11 on Friday (can schedule appointments as well)

Questions:

1. According to Huntington, what caused the Third Wave of democratization? Is his argument dependent on the specific time period he was looking at? How does the international context play into Huntington's theory? Is the international context sufficiently different today that Huntington's argument no longer applies?
2. How do Levitsky and Way distinguish the "fourth wave" from the "third wave" of democratization? Do any of the factors that Huntington says leads to democracy actually contribute to the development of competitive authoritarian regimes? What's so special about competitive authoritarian regimes? Are you convinced by L&W's argument that they are truly different from a weak democracy?
 - o Legitimacy problems, economic changes, Christianity, external factors
 - o Can diagram L&W's theory.
3. What keeps countries from undergoing democratic transition? What is Ross's argument for the lack of democratic transition in the Middle East? Does Bellin agree? Do you think the same factors apply to China's lack of democratic transition?
4. How important are cultural arguments in the theories we've read? Do you agree that certain cultures are generally not amenable to democracy? (Huntington's Catholicism argument – culture can change.)
5. Are the Arab monarchies (Yom and Guase) or the CCP (Pei, Nathan) more resilient according to the pieces we read? Which of these two sets of countries is more likely to transition to democracy sooner? Why?