

Section 8 Lesson Plan

Housekeeping

- Please make sure to do your OMPs! Will affect your participation grade.
- Paper 2 – due April 11. OH next Monday, please sign up.
 - o Go through Emily's worksheet
 - o Go through Dan's 4 questions
 - is there a correlation between indent and dep variables?
 - does the cause come before the effect?
 - is there a plausible causal pathway and is there any evidence?
 - has the author dispensed with alternative explanations
 - o Present and analyze: argument, mechanisms, evidence
 - o Emphasize handout
 - o Bring in other readings and lectures – higher grades will discuss this where relevant
 - o Don't discuss this project with others as it's about your personal comprehension of the papers
 - o 6-8 pages again

1. Presentation (Kristiana and Vanessa/Jasmine)
2. Reading discussion
3. Chiara's Activity

Reading Discussion

The readings this week bring up three basic questions:

1. When does a regime fall?
2. When do you get a transition to a different regime?
3. When is that a transition to democracy?

We'll start out with Rustow.

- What is Rustow's argument? Does he make a distinction between these three aspects of regime change?
- What is his first "precondition" for democracy? [National unity]
 - o Do you agree that national unity is a necessary and sufficient condition for democracy?
 - o What other factors might also affect whether a country is unified or not? Economic development? Literacy?

But in order to get a transition at all, you have destabilize the regime. Fish and Brownlee et al

- What are Fish's three mechanisms?
 - o Rentier, repression, modernization

- Which of these mechanisms apply in Russia? Which do you find convincing for explaining the Russian case?
 - Is Fish's suggestion that there aren't enough data on internal security enough to dismiss the repression case?
 - Do you think Fish's measures of modernization (televisions and telephones per capita) appropriately capture modernization? Do you agree with Fish that his analysis suggests some evidence that resource wealth hinders modernization?
 - How is modernization/economic development different in a rentier state than in a traditional modernization theory model?
 - In oil based economies, see small concentrated heavy industry with a bunch of monopolies. In usual economic development we see competition and proliferated industries.
 - How does the corruption effect fit with institutional stories? Does the timing of your oil actually matter? Jumping ahead, how does this relate to Ziblatt's argument about the role of democratic institutions and inequality?
 - Which way does the causal arrow run? [ask Jiwon] For Ziblatt?

- Brownlee et al
 - What causes uprisings according to Brownlee et al? - random
 - What causes regime change in their theory?
 - Oil wealth
 - Family succession
 - Gotta have both.
 - Are Brownlee et al talking about transition to democracy? [no – regime change]
 - What is the dependent variable they are using? [Whether you manage to kick your ruler out]

- so who does talk about transitions? McFaul. [post communist]
 - Does McFaul agree with Rustow about the role of polarization in democratic transition?
 - Where do strong democrats come from?
 - Do you find McFaul convincing? Why or why not? [essentially tautological – strong dictators arise where dictators are strong] Is McFaul externally valid? Does his theory apply to other countries outside of the former Soviet Union?
 - What kinds of theories do you find more convincing – the Ziblatt type theories where we look at structural causes of transition, or the McFaul type theories, where we look at more proximate causes? Why?

- Does democratic consolidation fit into McFaul's theory?

- What does Ziblatt say about democratic consolidation?
 - What role do elites play in Ziblatt's theory? Does Ziblatt's work provide support for Rustow's idea that polarization between democrats and elites is necessary for democracy? [Ziblatt is talking about consolidation rather than the actual transition.]

Figuring out the causal path – post-discussion. Won't do Fish because that's a bit part of your paper! Break into 4 groups. Students should identify:

1. independent variable
2. dependent variable
3. mechanisms
4. sample
5. correlation or causation?

Rustow (Sweden and Turkey [?])

Brownlee et al (Arab spring)

McFaul (post communist)

Ziblatt (Germany)

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Each group is a consulting team hired by the U.S. State Department to analyze the probability of and potential for democratization in either Vietnam or Qatar, and to suggest possible policy interventions.

PART 1:

Based on the readings of weeks 6-7-8 (but also previous weeks if you think they are relevant) and from the information you can collect online in 30 minutes, what are the obstacles to democratization?

Prepare a brief presentation to address these points:

1. How stable do you think the current regime is?
2. What are the most serious obstacles to democratization?

PART 2:

How would you invest a budget of 1 million dollars? Pick 1 to 3 possible interventions and also how you would divide up the money. For each choice tell me what reading (if any) would support the intervention.

1. Military interventions
2. Military supplies to opposition movements
3. Financial aid to opposition movements
4. Programs to strengthen media institutions, internet access, etc.
5. Economic investments in large industries
6. Programs to favor female literacy
7. New elementary schools
8. Private (highly specialized and advanced) universities
9. Funding local political/anti-regime NGOs
10. Direct cash transfers to citizens
11. School lunch and school uniform programs
12. Funding local non-political NGOs
13. Promotion of trade agreements with neighboring countries
14. Promotion of trade agreements with the US
15. Technical assistance to improve business conditions for private firms
16. Technical assistance to the government for economic reforms
17. Family planning initiatives
18. Diplomatic program to mediate the relationship between the regime and opposition groups
19. Promoting land reforms and land redistribution
20. Other (specify)

