

Gov 97 Week 10  
2015 Lesson Plan

Housekeeping:

- Will get papers next week in section
- Have set up office hour sign ups on course website, please come talk to me for your second advising meeting

Intro:

- Thus far in this course, we have covered some of the fundamentals of Political Theory (first couple weeks), American Politics (Steve's week, Noah's week, etc), Comparative Politics (Levitsky's week, etc), and this week we're turning to the fourth subfield: International Relations.
- We'll start out talking about democratic peace theory, move on to audience costs, and then end class by talking about some of the contemporary challenges associated with "drones and phones".
- Zoe and Joan will present their article towards the middle of class, as it has more to do with the latter material.

Democratic Peace

- What is democratic peace? What are the two explanations?
  - o Normative/Cultural Explanation
  - o Institutional/Structural Explanation
- What are some of the alternative arguments?
  - o Transnational and international institutions make peace
  - o Distance prevents war
  - o Alliances make peace
  - o Wealth makes peace
  - o Political stability makes peace
- Interstate war is *only* between sovereign nations – doesn't apply to current wars against ISIS and Al Qaeda
- **Has democratic peace theory got the causation reversed? Are democracies leading to international peace or is international peace leading to democratization?**
- **Do you think the implications of democratic peace theory will hold as the nature of war changes? (Do some of the alternative arguments start to kick in more?)**
- **Many of you suggested in your OMPs that you were skeptical of DPT. Why? The empirical regularity seems strong – where are you identifying the problem?**
- **If policymakers, say in the US, want to promote peace, should they promote democracy?**
- **Is there danger inherent in this line of thinking?**

- **Is the democratic peace a justification for democratic imperialism? As Mouad asks, how do you reconcile democracy and an interventionist (sometimes illegal) foreign policy in other parts of the world? Is a country still a democracy if it gives its citizens full democratic rights but kills innocents abroad and pursues interventionist (perhaps even imperialistic) foreign policies that violate the liberties of citizens abroad?**

#### Audience Costs

- What are audience costs?
  - o (Fearon 1994): democracies are able to signal their intentions to other states more credibly than authoritarian states because they face domestic political costs for backing down from their intentions once signaled. As a result, democracies are less likely to go to war with one another (because war is often a result of information asymmetry in bargaining and threat resolution)
  - o Potter and Baum dig deeper into how information access varies across different democracy, focusing on electoral institutions and the mass media.
- **Is the presence of mass media enough? As Moe says in her OMP, news can be spinned in any number of ways – if we don't believe mass media, do audience costs really exist?**
- **Can link this back to “modern” v. “ancient” democracy – do audience costs really work in a modern democracy where we're not really participating all the time? Do we really know enough to make them effective?**
- **Does it seem plausible that authoritarian governments don't face audience costs? Think back to the discussion about Putin that we had last week – he needs legitimacy from the people, that's why he holds elections. Are autocratic leaders like Putin more or less beholden to the domestic audience? Isn't Obama a lot more secure than Putin?**

**\*\*Have Zoe and Joan present article then take a break\*\***

#### Current controversies

- **When is it ok to wiretap? Conduct drone strikes? Are these actions *never* democratic? Is this just a natural consequence of delegating governance and political life to our representatives? (i.e. is wiretapping inevitable in a modern democracy?)**

- **Are drones more or less moral? They put fewer American lives in danger but also might encourage less necessary usage.**
- **(Raquel's excellent and provocative questions) Where should the line be drawn between national security and citizens' rights for privacy and property protection? Is Snowden a hero or villain or a misguided but well-intentioned figure?**
- **When does a country lose legitimacy due to its disregard of domestic privacy rights?**
- **What's more important in the end for democracy: being able to trust that one's government will uphold civil rights or trust that they'll efficiently protect it's population? Are these two things exclusive, or can the government efficiently carry out surveillance to ensure that there are no foreign and domestic threats, while at the same not trampling on the rights stated in their constitution.**

#### Back pocket Questions

- **How does the changing nature of war – drone strikes v. boots on the ground – affect audience costs? The rally around the flag effect?**
- **Do drones make it easier for politicians to use wars in a political way? Does the answer to that first question affect your views on mandatory v. voluntary military service?**
- **What about cyber warfare? When war is bloodless and only hits a country's economic capabilities, how does that affect audience costs?**