Section 9 November 9
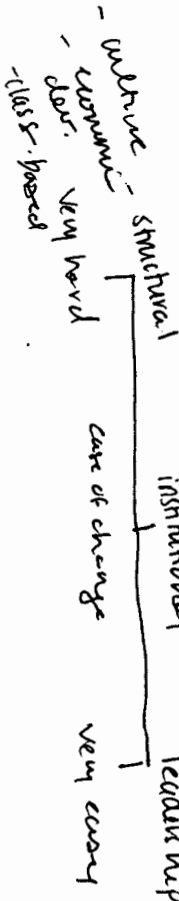
I. A review of critiques you can make - use for paper
II. What are institutions
III. Parliamentary vs. Presidential Debate
IV. Logistics for next week

I. A review of critiques:
        -Theoretical critiques
                -something about the logic is wrong
                -concept or definitional problem - say something is due to
presidentialism when it is really due to a quirk of certain presidential systems
        -empirical critiques
                -a large variety of these critiques, but within the scope of this
class you will probably think mainly about the sample of cases
                -sample - biased in some way?
                        -a characteristic that is associated with your comparison
groups that actually does the work
                -one case usually cannot disprove a theory because there is always
random noise - But if you find a case that doesn't work with the theory, think
instead about making a theoretical critique: how the case illustrates an alternative
logic that is possible.
                        -Very simple example from last week. Assume someone told me
that weak states make ethnic violence more likely because then the state can't
protect people and it causes an ethnic security dilemma. I consider the case of
Rwanda, where the state actually wasn't that weak. Instead of just saying, think
about Rwanda and leave it there, I can use the case of Rwanda to make a theoretical
critiques. The mechanism in your argument is that state doesn't protect. I agree
with that mechanism, but add that a non-neutral state can also cause this mechanism,
so you have missed this other important cause of ethnic violence.

II. What are in/formal institutions (definitions and examples)? How can informal and
formal institutions work together? How can they undermine each other? What is a
strong institution? [Huntington, Helmke & Levitsky]

Institutions are the rules of the game. "rules and procedures that structure social
interaction by constraining and enabling actors behaviors."

Huntington says for something to be an institution it has to have life outside of
the original founder

strong institutions
-scope -- how much of social activity is institutionalized
-institutionalization - process by which organizations acquire value and stability,
wants them to be adaptable, complex, autonomous and coherent (bit of an odd
discussion to me)

informal institutions: socially shared rules, usually unwritten, that are created,
communicated and enforced outside officially sanctioned channels. (not weak
institutions, not other behavioral regularities, informal organizations (separate
rules from players),

outcome	Effective Formal	Ineffective formal
convergent	complementary sap- chile, foundation = pol. norms; US con	substitutive "gentleman's agreement"
divergent	accommodating Spain, nt UH-r, Dutch consociat.	competing systemic corruption

What are presidential systems? What are parliamentary systems? How might each system increase or decrease political stability? What are their effects on other important outcomes (accountability, representation of voters etc.)?

Do institutions (presidentialism, parliamentarism) have an independent effect on these outcomes? [Linz, Mainwaring & Shugart, Mainwaring, Lipset]
Linz- yes
Mainwaring & Shugart
     differences among presidential systems. Presidentialism is best where: presidencies have weak legislative powers, parties are at least moderately disciplined and party systems are not highly fragmented
     dismiss the critiques of presidentialism by attributing them to other causes or saying parliamentarism has them too
        -dual legitimacy (parliamentary systems have too, upper & lower houses, "president")
        -rigidity can be reduced (allow reelection, shorten terms, early elections) and flexibility of parliament isn't necessarily awesome
        -winner take all (depends on federalism, electoral or party system)
     Assessing the record: looking at empirical claims - want groups to be comparable
     Advantages of presidentialism: greater choice for voters, accountability, congressional independence in legislative matters

Mainwaring: combination of multipartism and presidentialism is particularly difficult
-legislative gridlock (more likely with 3+ parties)
-no barriers of entry to radical parties
-difficult to sustain coalitions

Lipset
-culture (british colonialism, Protestantism) instead of institutions

If you were helping design the constitution of a country, would you implement presidentialism or parliamentarism?

III. Logistics
reading for next week
     not bad
     least important: lijphart on India