

Lesson plan, Government 97 (Spring 2014)
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What did you guys think of lecture?

Everyone say everyone else's name

Meet with me

Are there any areas where collective decision making by people is better? If so, which ones?

In those areas where we want collective decision making, should voting be public?

What was the goal of last week?

- Why democracy?
- Intrinsic v. instrumental benefits of democracy
- Equality
- Citizenship, inclusion exclusion
- What are the institutions that make up democracy, and why do they matter?

What is the goal of this week?

- Still justification for democracy
- What are the authors generally trying to do this week?
 - △ Some looking at historical causes of things, some are looking at justifications for things, these first two weeks are questions of justifications. In future weeks we are going to focus more on causes. (i.e. normative v. positive, ought v. is)

Start with Aristotle

Aristotle, The Politics

384 to 322 BC

Greek philosopher, studied under Plato

What characteristics do we want in the people who rule?

-are any of these characteristics in conflict with each other?

Pros and cons of lottery for deciding who rules

Relatedly, how does he define a citizen?

⤴ What are the three ideal types of government?

Kingship (govt of one for the common good) downside: intrinsic values of participation

Aristocracy (govt of the best according to virtue)

Constitutional govt (fusion of oligarchy and democracy)

Tyranny (govt of one, for personal gain)

Oligarchy (small group of people rule, maybe there are property qualifications, excludes some of the best people)

Democracy (egalitarian)

⤴ So he says democracy is the least worst of the perversions. What are some problems with democracy?

Tension: intrinsic benefits of participation, but also it seems optimal to have a small number of virtuous people who rule for the common interest.

We think elections make ppl accountable to us, so what does that mean about random ppl by lottery being the rulers? What would be the pros and cons of this lottery?

In what ways do we participate in politics today?

- ⤴ Jury: lottery, can't be appealed, yet the Greeks had to make huge decisions as jurors, today they make very narrow decisions
- ⤴ Consultations with ppl by independent agencies, like nuclear agencies
- ⤴ Ballot initiatives, as a way to get around elected representation, not always authentically populist, there are people who go around and get signatures

Tocqueville

Democracy in America

1835 written

Lived in first half of 1800s, French

French revolution happened at end of 1700s

What is Tocqueville doing here?

What are some of the things he observes?

Is this a justification for democracy? Or a causal story about the consequences of

democracy?

What would Aristotle think if he read this excerpt of Democracy in America?
The Federalist Papers

Late 1700s

- ⤴ Series of papers promoting ratification of US constitution

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written by James Madison, under pseudonym'

- ⤴ how to guard against factions. Thinking about bad factions. Republic better for dealing with this than states
- ⤴ Why are factions bad?
- ⤴ Why would direct democracy be worse? (A faction could be the majority at some point)

Madison says you can't prevent factions. Do you agree?

Why is a 1) unified 2) representative republic, and 3) a federal one at that, best for dealing with factions?

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What is this paper doing?

What will be the role of the senate?

Why will the senate be more sane than other parts of society?

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Chiara's game (see below)

(If time) Group concept map

- ⤴ Pericles' Funeral Oration: Democracy is a noble form of government worth dying to defend.
- ⤴ Aristotle, The Politics: The best form of government is kingship, but democracy is the best of the perverse forms of governments.
- ⤴ Cantor: Ancients understood liberty as responsibility, Moderns understand liberty as rights.
- ⤴ Federalist papers: Democracy is a very good form of government generally, and specifically for America.

✧ Tocqueville: Democracy in America has resulted in a remarkably unique equality of conditions.

What is a way of organizing all of this?

Students did this exercise in groups (it worked very well). Credit to Chiara Superti.

Imagine you are designing the constitution for a new country. Please make the following decisions. When possible, cite authors who would agree or disagree with your decision.

(Exercise adapted from Chiara Superti.)

1. Legislators selected through elections **OR** by lottery

2. Organized political parties **OR** individual legislators

3. A few decisions on policies (e.g. budget) made through internet voting **OR** ALL decisions left to legislators

4. Universal suffrage and/or active electorate **OR** limited suffrage/active electorate based on educational criteria

5. Mandatory military service **OR** voluntary military service

6. Secret votes (on legislation and/or policy preference) **OR** non-secret ballot/votes

7. In legislation: quota for women and ethnic groups **OR** no quotas

I gave out this handout:

Sophomore Tutorial: Democracy - Government 97 (Spring 2014)

Handout for Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Names (one more time!)

Meet with me

A motivating discussion question: Are there any parts of modern life (in America or elsewhere) when collective decision making is preferable to decision making by representatives?

Rough timeline

Pericles' Funeral Oration: 431 BC

Aristotle, The Politics: mid 300s BC

[more than 2000 years later...]

Constant: 1816

Tocqueville: early 1800s

Federalist papers: late 1700s

Aristotle

Tocqueville

Federalist papers (if time)

Constitutional design exercise

Concept map (if time)