

## Lesson Plan – Week 10: Do Institutions Matter? Electoral Design, Party Systems, and Ethnic Conflict

### Announcements

1. Important readings next week- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> most important, can pick regional focus, Bates is least important but very easy
2. Paper disseminates next Monday – plan accordingly (Harvard-Yale)
  - a. Set up a time to meet with me (let's do my OH by appointment)
  - b. Set up a time to meet with Colin
  - c. Look back at last essay – same structure and goals

### Section Goals

This week we look at institutions.

### Discussion Questions

1. **Types of Electoral Systems:** Describe and define different electoral rules.
  - a) What does a plurality electoral system look like? What are its variants?
  - b) What does a proportional electoral system look like? What are its variants?
  - c) How do these electoral systems combine with the Presidentialism/Parliamentarism? What is the Westminster system?
  - d) What is district magnitude?
2. **Consociationalism:** What is Consociationalism? What different institutions does it require?
3. **Build your own democracy Activity:** Break into 3 groups and have them complete the activity (15 min). Discuss the results (20 min).
  - a) How does each institutional choice affect:
    - i. Representation?
    - ii. Efficiency?
    - iii. Potential for ethnic conflict?
4. **Representation and efficiency:** Lijphart says that “Proportionalists tend to attach greater importance to the *representativeness* of government, while plurality advocates view the *capacity to govern* as the more vital consideration.” (pp. 166). Which do y'all think is more important for democratic stability? Ethnic conflict?
5. **Ethnocratic Democracies?:** What is an ethnocracy?
  - a) Are ethnocracies democratic? Are they worse than liberal democracies?
  - b) Are consociational regimes democratic?
  - c) What other institutions can be used to temper ethnic conflict? (Think about Lebanon, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Guyana)
  - d) Do you agree with Lijpharts argument that Consociationalism is the best choice for deeply divided societies or do you think a different institutional choice would be better?

- i. Would consociational democracy have prevented the break-up of Yugoslavia?
  - e) How does the primordialism v. constructivism debate affect the answer to the above question? Is Howard a primordialist or constructivist? What about Lijphart?
- 6. **U.S. in Retrospect:** Howard poses the question of what would have happened had the U.S., post-Civil war, been divided into racially based political parties. What do y'all think?