

Lesson Plan – Week 13-14: Social Capital and the Welfare State

Announcements

1. This is the last section
2. Papers returned after section (or some other time)
3. I will still have office hours until the final (next week I am moving mine to Tuesday from 3-4:30)
4. Final on Dec 17 at 2pm, will be 3 hours, 2 out of 6 essays, and 10 out of several terms
5. Shortened list of terms went out
6. Iraq not on final
7. Review sessions:
 - a. Thurs 12/11 4-6pm NW Labs B103
 - b. Fri 12/12 1-3pm Fong Auditorium
 - c. Mon 12/15 7-9pm Fong Auditorium
 - d. Tues 12/16 4-6pm NW Labs B103

Section Goals

This week we will talk about social capital and the welfare state. Social capital is a particularly important topic because it relates to many of the topics we have already discussed and provides an alternative theory. The welfare state is also an important (and very exciting) topic and directly stems from our last discussion on state-building. Now we are moving beyond just the strength of the state to needing a state large enough to provide welfare to its citizens.

Discussion Questions

1. **Making Democracy Work:** Let's walk through Putnam's theory of social capital in Italy.
 - a) What is Putnam trying to explain?
 - b) What is civic engagement? How do we measure this?
 - c) Are you personally involved in any civil society organizations? Your parents?
 - i. What does this look like across Italy?
 - d) What is **social capital**? How do these two differ?
 - i. Is social capital an institution?
 - e) What does social capital get us? How does social capital build norms of trust and reciprocity? Do you buy this?
 - f) How does Putnam link social capital and performance of government institutions?
 - i. Discuss issues of collective action
 - ii. What other ways can we overcome the collective action problem?
 - iii. Why does third party enforcement not work?
 - g) Why is there more civic engagement in the north of Italy?

Historical Institutions → Present Civic Engagement → Social Capital → Norms of Trust and Reciprocity → Overcome collective action problem → Good governance

2. **Social Capital in America:** What does social capital look like in America today?
 - a) Do you buy his argument that America is in an inexorable decline?

- b) Why has it eroded?
 - c) What does this mean for the U.S.?
3. **The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly:** Is social capital always good?
- a) What does Berman say about this?
 - b) Is her analysis reconcilable with Putnam's? How does she reconcile the two (all about strength and legitimacy of institutions)
 - c) How would Varshney explain her findings?
4. **Social Capital and Ethnic Conflict (Varshney)**
- a) What is Varshney trying to explain?
 - b) What is civic engagement or "networks of engagement" in this piece?
 - i. How does this differ from Putnam's definition? (intraethnic v. interethnic)
 - ii. Is all social capital good?
 - c) Can social capital reduce the likelihood of ethnic conflict? Why?
 - d) Does the theory of social capital relate to/change instrumentalist theories of ethnic conflict? (Varshney – SC can undermine political mobilizing)
 - e) Is there anything to be learned from SC theory to better understand the Ferguson issues? (racial segregation rather than integration)
5. **Social Capital and Development**
- a) Is social capital linked to economic development?
 - b) How does Putnam's theory of social capital relate to modernization theory?
 - c) How does social capital relate to Weber's theory?
6. **Social Capital and Revolutions**
- a) Does this relate at all to our theories of revolution?
 - b) Can social capital help to explain when we get revolutions? (think about collective action)
7. **Social Capital and State-Building**
- a) How does Putnam's theory relate to state-building?
 - b) His theory is all about effective state institutions – how can social capital help to build a stronger state? [capacity to extract]
8. **Prospects for Social Capital**
- a) Is social capital the key to making democracy work, as Putnam argues?
 - b) What are our hopes for the south of Italy? How can social capital be generated?
9. **Welfare Policies** (show map)
- a) What are examples of redistributive programs?
 - b) How are the American and European welfare states different? What are the differences between social democratic, Christian democratic, and liberal welfare states?
 - c) A little info on welfare states in the rest of the world.

10. Explaining Welfare State Variation: What theories do we have of why we get certain welfare states?

- a) Cultural theories
- b) Power of the left
- c) Institutions
- d) Race

11. Social Capital and the Welfare State: Do you think that the two are at all related?