

Housekeeping

- Will get your papers back Friday; will have them in OH, and will put them in my mailbox for pick-up if you can't make it
- Fill out the Q
- Review sessions:
 - o Thursday, Dec 11th, 4-6 PM - **Northwest Labs B-103**
 - o Friday, Dec 12th, 1-3 PM - **Fong Auditorium**
 - o Monday, Dec 15th, 7-9 PM - **Fong Auditorium**
 - o Tuesday, Dec 16th, 4-6 PM - **Northwest Labs B-103**
- We'll talk about the final towards the end of class

What are examples of redistributive programs? How are the American and European welfare states different? Why are they different? What structural and institutional explanations do you find most convincing? Be sure to distinguish between the normative and empirical issues at play.

What is it about racial fractionalization/race that results in lower support for the welfare state?

- Social affinity?
- People using it as a signal towards some underlying ethic?
- Ethnic entrepreneurship?
- Racism?

Consider Singhal and Luttmer's cultural argument about preferences toward the welfare state. (Economist article here: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/msingha/Economist.pdf>). Is this argument a strong rebuttal to Alesina and Glaeser, or can the two arguments be reconciled? Which do you find more convincing?

What is civil society and how might it mediate the relationship between race and support for the welfare state?

Consider Putnam's argument in "Bowling Alone." Do you find it convincing? Is America in the midst of an inexorable decline? Are there important factors he is missing?

What about the role of technology?

Strategies for Studying for the Final Exam

- Divide topics into big dependent and independent variables (hint: these are usually modules on the syllabus).
- Major outcomes are: economic development, democracy, social revolutions, ethnic violence, strong states
- Major independent variables are: institutions (parliamentary v. presidential, electoral rules), civil society, structural, voluntarist and institutional arguments
- Think about
 - o The variation to be explained (levels of wealth, regional concentrations of levels of wealth, levels of industrialization)
 - o Proposed explanatory variables and their authors
 - Might want to start by thinking of structural explanations (culture, economy, marxist), voluntarist explanations (leaders and their roles, shared symbols, etc) and institutionalist explanations
 - o What are the mechanisms that connect these explanatory and dependent variables
 - o What are the counterarguments? How do authors speak to each other. Can offer a different type of explanation, logic of the mechanism, the definition, etc
 - o cases

Do this with the case of Iraq

How to explain level of economic development for Iraq?

Structural factors

- modernization theory (Lipset, lerner, inkwells)
- cultural - islam doesn't foster democracy (Huntington)
- class based - moore - no strong & independent middle class
- resource based - ross Iraq has oil
- history of democratic practice
- primordialism – divided society
- weak state/sultanistic regime

Voluntarist factors

- lack of strong leaders?
- Counter argument – there were leaders, they just didn't have good ties to society

Institutionalist argument

- all of this can be overcome
- Consociational institutions

Should we expect democracy in Iraq? Why or why not? How might democracy be encouraged there?