

Lesson Plan – Week 4: Democracy and Democratization: Classical Approaches

Announcements

1. (Welcome to new people; introductions; pass around syllabus; run through quickly)
2. Article exchange list-serv
3. Discuss paper
4. How to write session – next Monday, the 29th, 7:00pm, Fong Auditorium
5. Important readings next week- theoretical most important, can pick a case

Section Goals

This week we move from studying development to studying democratization and particularly focus on how and whether development affects democratization. Our main goal is to understand the different theories of how development relates to democratization, the data backing up these theories, the weaknesses of these theories, and alternate theories. By the end of section we will hopefully be able to answer:

- What is democracy?
- What factors lead to the emergence of democracies?
- Does economic development lead to democratization?

Discussion Questions

1. **What is democracy?** How do the different authors define it? Do we agree with this?
 - a. Public contestation, political participation (Dahl)
2. **Modernization Theory :** What does modernization theory say about the link between development and democracy? (Lipset) What are the mechanisms that drive this? (education, inequality, wealth, urbanization)
 - a. What data supports modernization theory? What are alternative explanations for this trend? (Pzeworski and Limongi)
 - b. What is the relationship between development and consolidation?
3. **Moore and Modernization Theory :** Can other economic factors explain democratization? What would Moore say? *Walk through Moore's argument.*

In Moore's conception, Modernization is therefore the economic stimulus which interacting with class structures leads to certain political outcomes. Democracy is only the result of modernization if coupled with particular class structures and coalitions.

4. **Dahl :** How does Dahl explain transitions to competitive politics? What factors are necessary?
5. **Culture :** How does culture shape or impede democratization? (Huntington, Weber)
 - a. What is the mechanism linking culture and democracy?
 - b. Can we get democracy in Islamic states? Will this require a shift similar to that of the Catholic Church?

- c. What are the weaknesses of this approach?
6. **Leadership** : How does leadership shape or facilitate democratization? Does this differ across contexts, eg. U.S. v. India? (Lipset, Varshney)
7. **Obstacles to Democracy** : What are the obstacles to democracy? Is democracy possible everywhere or are there certain requisites for democracy?
8. **Need for Revolution?** : Is violence a necessary part of democratization? (Moore, Dahl) Does democratization occur gradually?
9. **Overview** :
- What are the main variables linked to democratization? (development, class structure, history, culture, leadership)
 - Let's classify these theories as either structuralist or voluntarist:

Structuralist: Importance of deeply entrenched conditions. Minimize the role of human agency. Tend to be pretty deterministic.

Lipset (econ. dev.); Moore (class); Huntington (culture)

Voluntarist: Focus on the role of leadership and human agency in shaping outcomes
Lipset (Washington)

In between: Dahl talks about resources but also systems of mutual security; Przeworski and Limong talk about economic growth but that political actors initiate democracy

10. **U.S. Case Study**: Let's think about all of our theories in terms of the creation and stability of American democracy. Lipset (Washington) makes a voluntarist argument regarding American democratization; what is the logic here? How might the various structuralist theories explain democratization and stability in the US (cultural theorists, modernization theorists, class-based theories)? What do you find to be the most convincing argument?

11. **Putting it all Together (Sample Paper Topic)**:

Both Marxism and classical Modernization Theory assumed that there exists a single path to development and treated the historical trajectory of the West as the model for that path. Many of the course readings dispute this claim, on empirical, theoretical, and normative grounds. Yet is there now conclusive evidence that there exist multiple paths to development and/or democracy? In terms of fostering development or democracy in Africa, Latin America, Asia, or the Middle East, is there anything to be learned from studying the Western path to development? Or has our focus on the Western path been a needless and even counter-productive?