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Lesson Plan – Week 5: Explaining Authoritarian Persistence: The Middle East and China

Announcements
1. Discuss paper
2. Important readings next week- Skocpol most important, Selbin least important

Section Goals
This week we study democratization from the vantage point of authoritarian regimes. We turn last week on its head by asking why have we <u>not</u> seen democratization in particular settings. Our main goal is to understand the different theories of how authoritarian regimes democratize and when they don't. By the end of section we will hopefully be able to answer:
*   What factors lead to authoritarian collapse?
*   What factors lead to democratization?
*   How do we explain the third wave?
*   What are competitive authoritarian regimes?
*   How do we understand the Middle East (Arab Spring) and China? Why have these regions not democratized?

Discussion Questions
1. **What is an authoritarian regime?** What types of authoritarian regimes do the readings discuss? What is competitive authoritarianism?
    a) Revisit discussion from last week on whether a regime that does not turn over but has democratic institutions is democratic. What is the difference in this case from a competitive authoritarian regime?
    b) Are you convinced that competitive authoritarian regimes are different from weak democracies?

2. **Third Wave:** What differentiated the third wave from the first two waves? How does Huntington suggest we should study this wave?

3. **Huntington:** According to Huntington, what caused the Third Wave of democratization?
    a) What factors affect the decline of authoritarian regimes and the rise of democratic regimes? Are these different?
    b) Does Huntington argue that he provides a general theory of democratization (time period)?
    c) What is legitimacy and why is it important? (nationalism, ideology; undermined by rise of democratic ideals, past experience with democ)

    *   legitimacy problems because of general acceptance of economic values
    *   economic growth (modernization argument)
    *   changes in the doctrine of the Catholic Church
    *   changes in the policies of external actors
    *   snowballing

4. **Levitsky and Way:** According to L & W, what causes the collapse of an authoritarian regime/transition to democracy? (ties to the West and strength of governing parties/state organizations; linkage v leverage)
    a) What is the role of linkages with the West and leverage of the West?
    b) Can we use Huntington's theory to explain the development of competitive authoritarian regimes?

5. **International Context:** What is the role of international forces and context in democratization? Are domestic and international determinants of regime change to be seen as competing hypotheses, scope conditions, mechanisms?

6. **Economic Development:** How does the economic environment relate to democratization? Authoritarian survival?

7. **Group Activity:** Middle East v. China; Break up class into four groups – 2 for middle east and 2 for China.

    a) Will these regions/countries democratize? Why or why not?
    b) What conditions would you need for democratization? If you could magically change something to encourage democratization, what would it be?
    c) Which will transition first?

Middle East
- Are Middle Eastern states exceptional? (Bellin vs Ross) Which arguments about authoritarianism in the Middle East resonate with theories from other regions and which do not?
- Does Oil Hinder democracy? What are the implications?
- Should we generalize by geographic region, regime type, or wave of democracy? Are certain regimes more resilient and why?
- Does culture matter? Can culture change?

China
- Why do revolutionary regimes rarely democratize?
- What is the role of the economy? Can we transition to a developed economy without a transition to a democracy?
- What differentiates China and South Korea?
- What is the role of leadership in the Chinese case?
- What do we think about what is happening now in Hong Kong?