

Forms of Authoritarianism

Political Science 225
North Dakota State University

Authoritarianism

The original form of state organization

Definition

Authoritarian regimes are characterized by their reliance on unelected or non-competitively elected leaders

Authoritarianism as “Not Democracy”

Varieties of Authoritarianism?

- Not all Authoritarian states are the same
- Two Approaches to thinking about Regime Type
 - Typology
 - The Selectorate
- Do different types of Authoritarian regimes lead to different outcomes?

Types of Regimes

Classic approach emphasizes categorization

- Different types of regimes produce varying levels of stability, growth, repression
- Disagreement over types
- Evidence is mixed

A Standard Typology

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- Monarchy
- Military Dictatorship
- Civilian Dictatorship

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Why this organization? What's the basis of the typology?

Monarchy

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- Hereditary succession
- Leader styles himself/herself a King/Queen
- Support coalition is family

Military Dictatorship

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- Executive relies on military to take, maintain, power
- Focus on military survival, rather than state
- Small core of officers, a junta

Civilian Dictatorship

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- Personalistic
 - Legitimized by quality of individual
 - Cult of personality
 - Lots of variation

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How does the cult of personality help solve the dictator's dilemma?

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- How classify?
- Second dimension?

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 - Stable
 - Institutionalized succession

Problems

Many issues with this approach

- How many typologies?
- Hybrids?
- Muddled Expectations
- Scientific?

Public and Private Goods

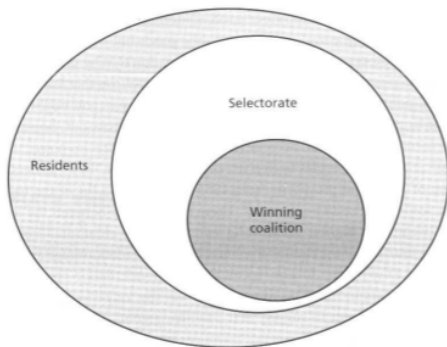
GOODS		Provision	
		Excludable	Non-Excludable
Consumption	Rivalrous	Private Goods	Commons
	Non-Rivalrous	Toll Goods	Public Goods

Selectorate Theory

- Selectorate
- Disenfranchised
- Winning coalition

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Applying Selectorate Theory

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- North Korea
- England Circa 1200

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 - WC = plurality of electoral college votes
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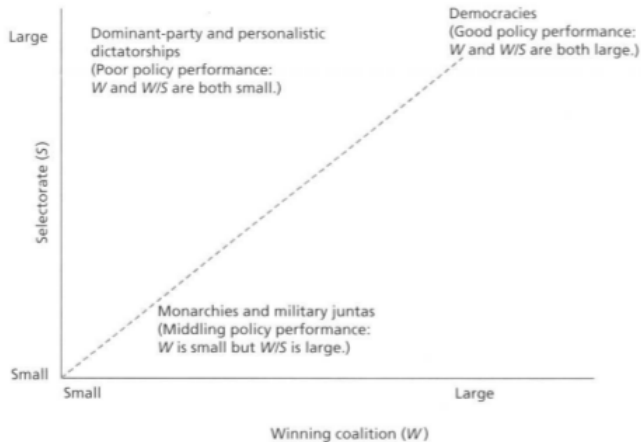
Applying Selectorate Theory

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 - S = Communist party
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- England Circa 1200
 - S = 197 lay barons, 39 ecclesiastical barons
 - WC = Subset of the barons

Regime Typologies and Selectorate Theory



Selectorate Theory and Government Performance



(Dis)Advantages of Selectorate Theory

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- Con

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 - Causal mechanism is clear
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 - Oversimplifies
 - Measurement problems