

POLS 280: Politics of Development and Foreign Aid

Class 12:

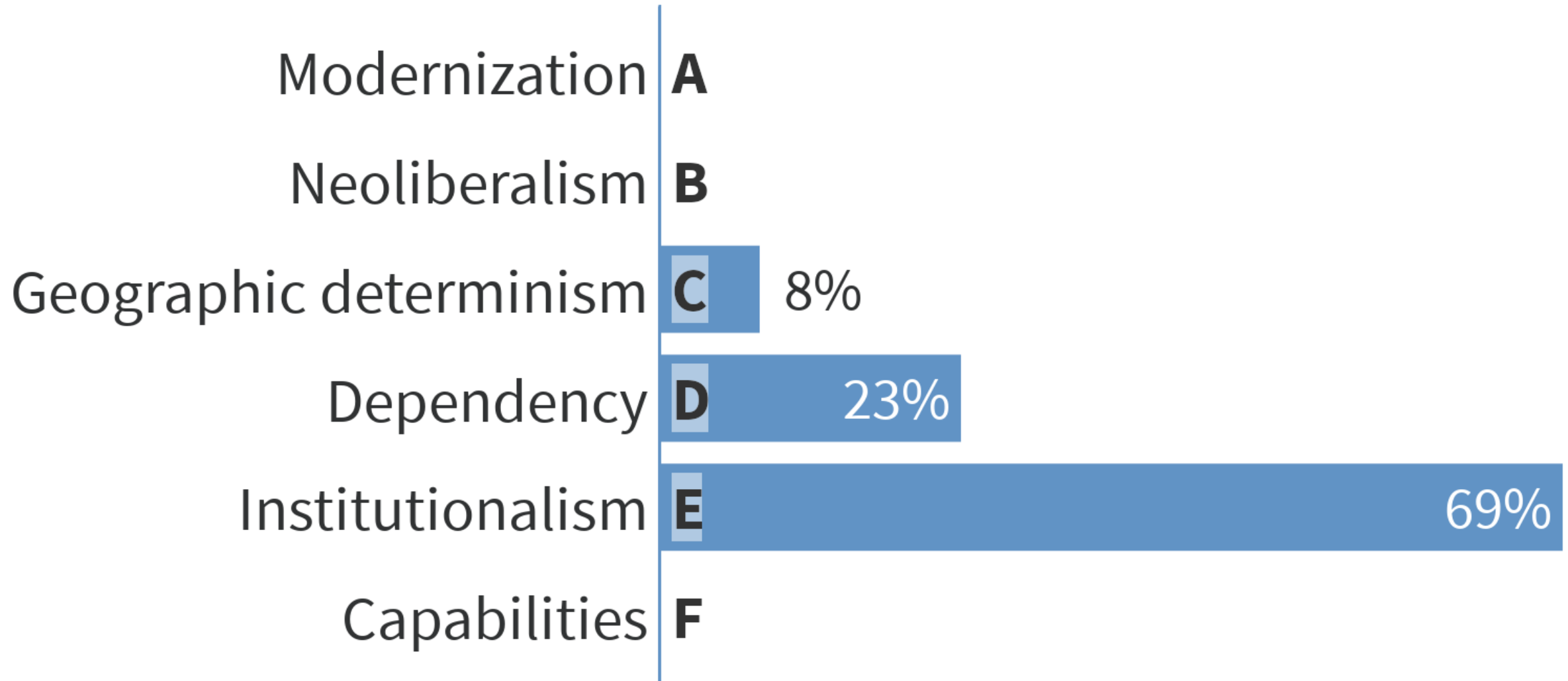
Explaining development—discussion and presentations

Evaluating the theories and explanations of development

	Modernization	Neoliberalism	Geographic determinism	Dependency	Institutionalism	Capabilities
Universalistic	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Normative	Yes	Yes	No (usually)	Yes	No (caveat)	Yes
Structural / deterministic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (usually)	No
Binary-based	Yes	No (caveat)	No	Yes	No	No
Nation-state-centric	Yes	Complicated	No	Yes	No	No
Economy-centric	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Dynamic / historical	No	No	No	Ish	Depends	No
Teleological	Yes	Yes	Kind of	Ish	No	No
Recognition of power	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tool of power	Yes	Yes	No	No	No (debatable)	No
Eurocentric	Yes	Yes	No (debatable)	Arguably	No (debatable)	No (debatable)
Influential (outside academia)	Yes	Yes	Somewhat	Yes	Yes	Yes
Empirical	No	No	Yes (within academia)	No	Yes	No

Which of the theories and explanations of development do you find the most compelling?

Theories and explanations



Discussion questions

- What is the role of progress in modernization theory and neoliberalism?
- What explains the popularity of modernization and dependency/underdevelopment theories and neoliberalism during their heyday?
- To what extent are geographic explanations of development valid?
- What are the limits of institutionalist explanations of development?

Kahoot!