

PLS 140
Introduction to
Comparative Politics

Week 7:
Review

Plan for this week

- Review lecture
- Final exam

Plan for today

- Review:
 - Concepts
 - Explanations
 - Application of the comparative method to empirical evidence
- Final exam overview

Concepts

- Institutions
- Collective action
- Anarchy and political order
- State, state capacity, and state-making
- Development and political development
- Political regime, democracy, and authoritarianism
- Regime change, democratization, and democratic backsliding

Concepts

- Constitutions and constitutional design
- Federalism and unitarism
- Presidential, parliamentary, and semi-presidential systems
- Separation of powers and parliamentary sovereignty
- Judiciaries and judicial review
- Electoral systems, coalitions, and power-sharing arrangements

Concepts

- Political parties and party systems
- Interest groups
- Contention and contentious politics
- Politics of collective identities and ideas

Theories and explanations

- Political order:
 - Stationary bandits
- State-making:
 - Interstate war
 - Material (and class) interests
 - Bargaining
 - Administrative innovations
 - Diffusion

Theories and explanations

- Development:
 - Environmental / geographic conditions
 - International system
 - Colonial institutions

Theories and explanations

- Regime change and durability:
 - Culture
 - Economy: modernization, inequality, class
 - Domestic institutions
 - International system
 - Agency and incentives for / against collective action
 - Polarization and populism

Theories and explanations

- Constitutional design:
 - Regime type
 - Country size
 - Political cleavages
- Party system features:
 - Formal political institutions
 - Political cleavages

Theories and explanations

- Contention:
 - Relative deprivation
 - Rational choice
 - Political opportunities and mobilization
- Identity salience:
 - Primordialism
 - Structuralism
 - Constructivism

Research and evidence

- Comparative method and essentials of research design in Political Science / Comparative Politics:
 - Inferences
 - Association and causation
 - Case selection and observations
- Country cases of Brazil, China, India, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States

Evidence from country cases

- Apparent connections between:
 - State capacity and development
 - Regime type and development
 - Presidentialism and federalism
 - Electoral systems and regime type

Final exam

- Description and analysis
- 4 terms
- Chosen by you from a list of terms randomly selected from the list in the study guide (with no new, unexpected terms)
- ~100-150 words per term
- 1 hour