

PLS 140
Introduction to
Comparative Politics

Week 6, Lecture 1:
Authoritarianism

Recap

- Recent crisis of democracy amid democratic backsliding and resurgence of populism

Plan for this week

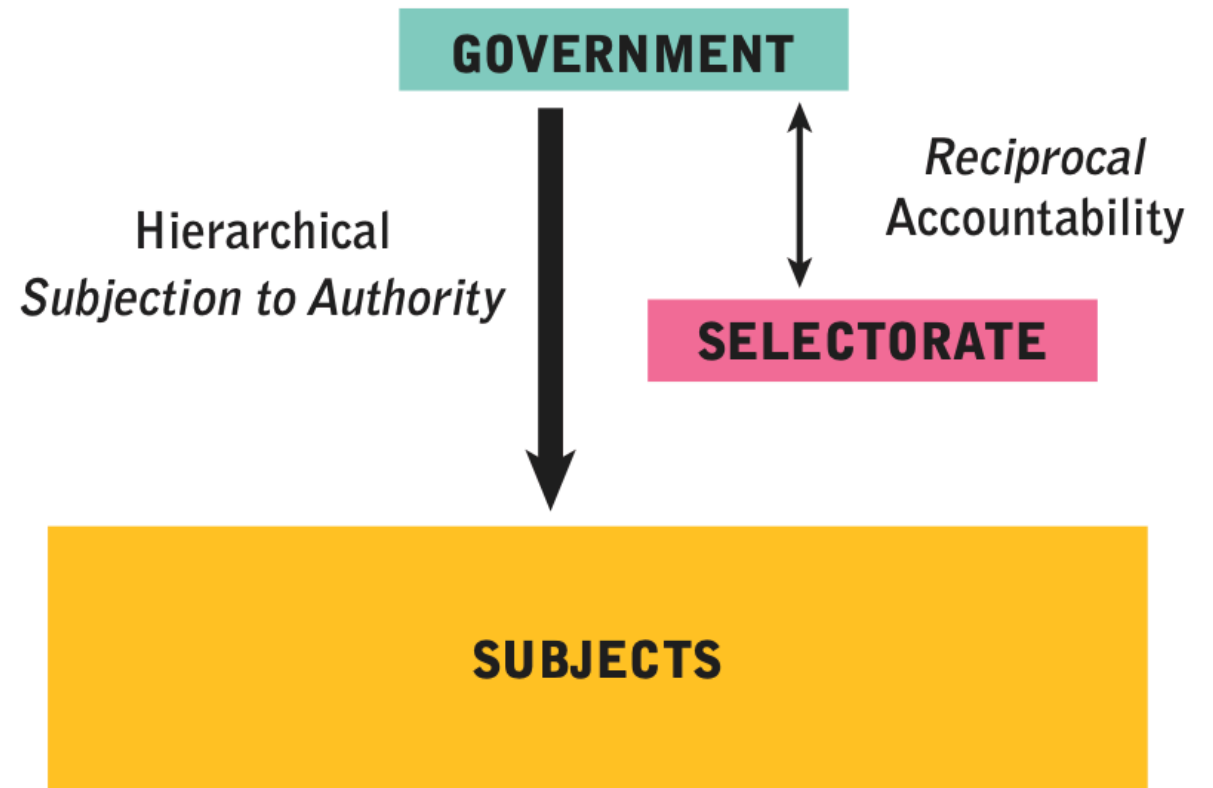
- Authoritarianism
- Focus on China, Kazakhstan, and Russia

Plan for today

- Authoritarianism:
 - Definition
 - Typology
 - Causes of emergence and persistence

Authoritarianism

- Form of government, or regime, that is non-democratic

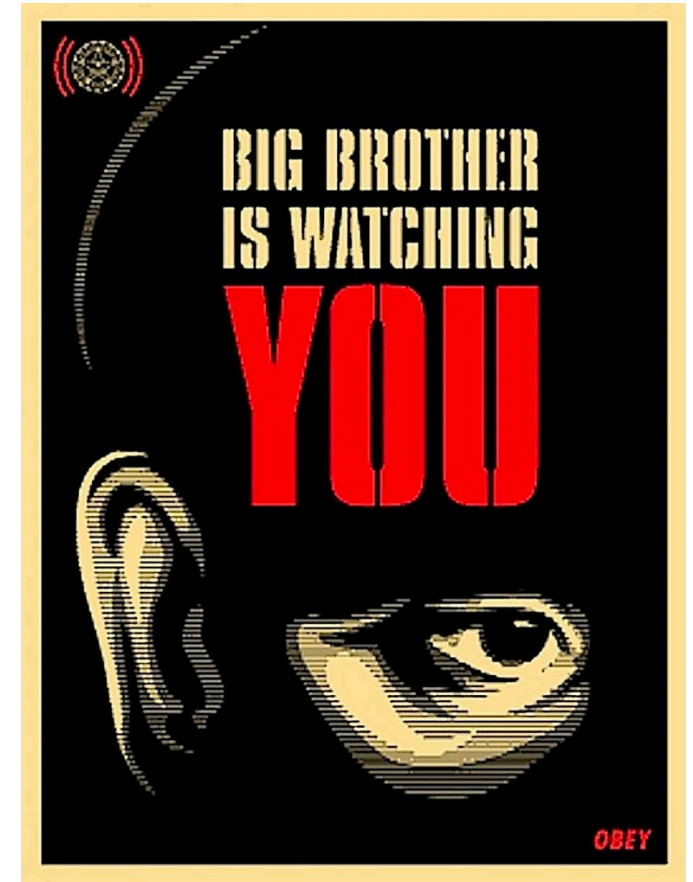


Types of authoritarian regimes

- *Totalitarian regimes*
- Theocracies
- Personalistic dictatorships
- Bureaucratic-authoritarian regimes
- Hybrid regimes

Totalitarian regimes

- Regimes that aim to seek to exert total control over subject populations
- Key differentiators from (other) autocracies:
 - Use of ideology
 - Extent of coercive mobilization
 - Degree of pluralism



Theocracies

- Regimes controlled by religious leaders and / or reliant on religion as the main mode of legitimation



Personalistic dictatorships

- Regimes where power is concentrated in the person of the leader (as opposed to the office that they occupy)



Bureaucratic-authoritarian regimes

- Regimes controlled by an organized (party or military) bureaucracy



Hybrid regimes

- Regimes with features of both authoritarian and democratic regimes



Explanations

- Class power and institutions
- Elite incentives
- Barriers to collective action
- Political culture

Moore

- “No bourgeoisie, no democracy”
- Class configurations and their consequences:
 - Strong bourgeoisie
—> democracy
 - Weak bourgeoisie + agrarian elite —> right-wing autocracy
 - Weak bourgeoisie + peasantry
—> left-wing autocracy

CHART 1
CATEGORIES AND EXPLANATORY VARIABLE CLUSTERS IN BARRINGTON MOORE'S
SOCIAL ORIGINS OF DICTATORSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

	Route One "Bourgeois Revolution"		Route Two "Reactionary Capitalism"	Route Three "Communism"
<i>Common Starting Point:</i> * (Except U.S.A.)	Agrarian Bureaucracy		Agrarian Bureaucracy	Agrarian Bureaucracy
<i>Key Variable Clusters</i>				
Bourgeois Impulse:	Strong	Strong	Medium-strength	Weak
Mode of Commercial Agriculture:	Market	Labor-repressive	Labor-repressive	Labor-repressive
Peasant Revolutionary Potential:	Low	High	Low	High
<i>Critical Political Event:</i>	Bourgeois Revolution		Revolution From Above	Peasant Revolution
<i>Major Systemic Political Outcome:</i>	Democratic Capitalism		Fascism	Communist Dictatorship
<i>Cases:</i>	Britain U.S.A.	France	Germany Japan	Russia China

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Politics and Society
Fall 1973

***[P]owerful central governments that we can loosely call royal absolutisms or agrarian bureaucracies established themselves in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in all the major countries examined in connection with this study (except of course the United States). . . . [T]he fact forms a convenient if partly arbitrary peg upon which to hang the beginnings of modernization (*Social Origins*, p. 417).

Acemoglu and Robinson

- Elite choices:
 - Repression
 - Pro-citizen policies
 - Democratization



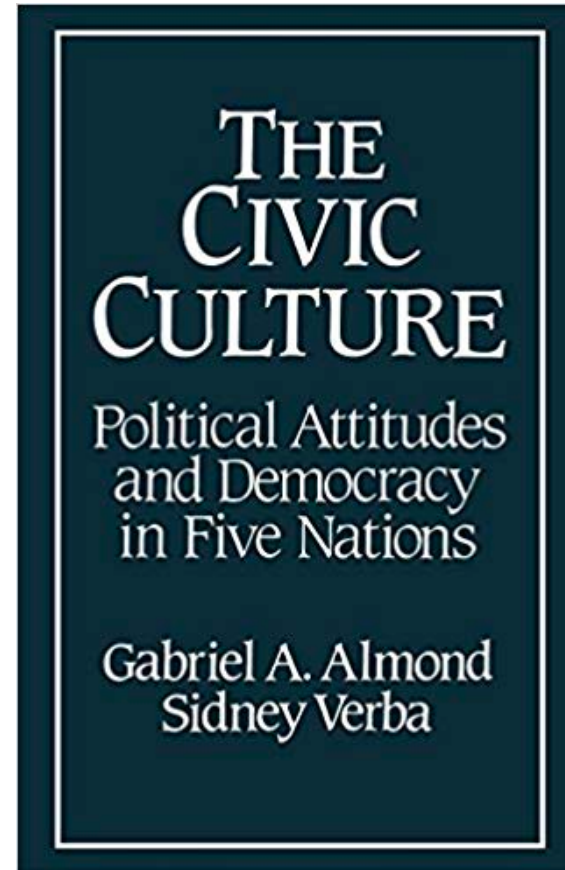
Kuran

- Rationality
- Collective action and collective action problems
- Preference falsification



Almond and Verba

- Political cultures:
 - Parochial
 - Subject
 - Participatory



Takeaways

- Multiplicity of non-democratic regime types
- Persistence and emergence of autocracy explained by both structural conditions and individual choices