

PLS 140
Introduction to
Comparative Politics

Week 6, Lecture 2:
Authoritarianism in China, Kazakhstan, and Russia

Recap

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

Plan for today

- Varieties of authoritarianism :
 - China
 - Kazakhstan
 - Russia

Authoritarianism in China

- Proclamation of the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of Chairman Mao Zedong, following the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s victory in the Chinese Civil War, 1945-49
- Great Leap Forward, 1958-62 + Great Famine, 1959-61 (~30 million deaths)
- Cultural Revolution, 1966-76 (~500,000-2 million deaths)



Authoritarianism in China

- Mao's death and the Gang of Four's arrest, 1976
- Deng Xiaoping, reforms, and Tiananmen
- Deng's term-limited successors:

- Jiang Zemin, 1989-2002

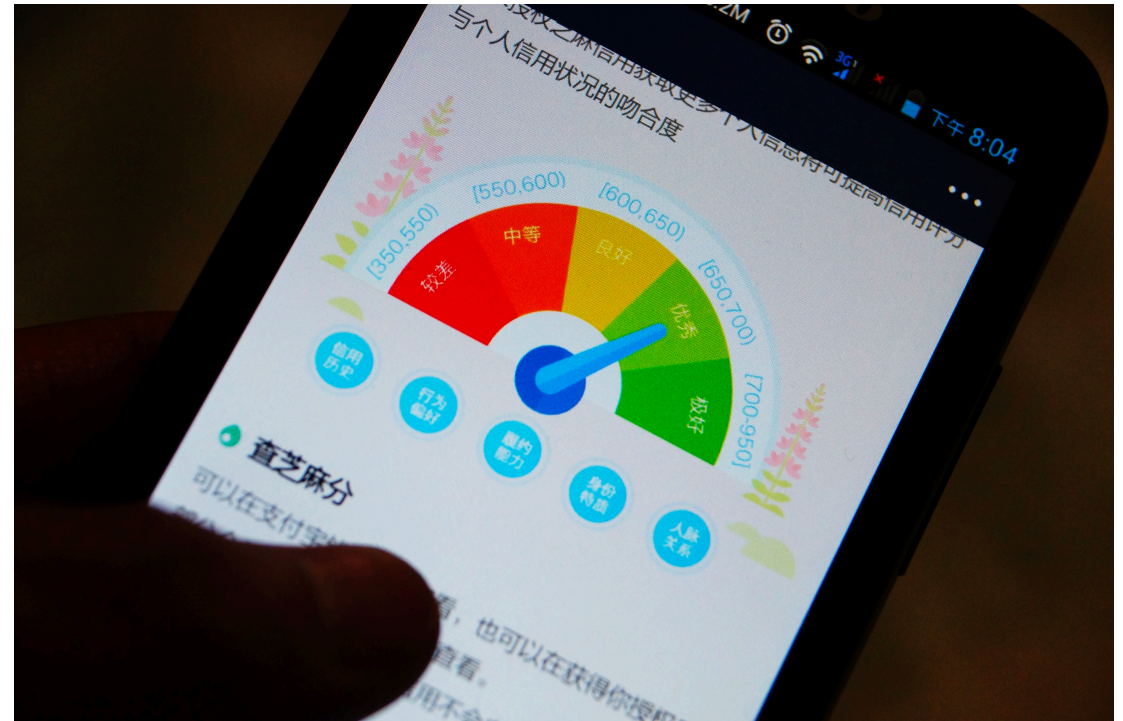
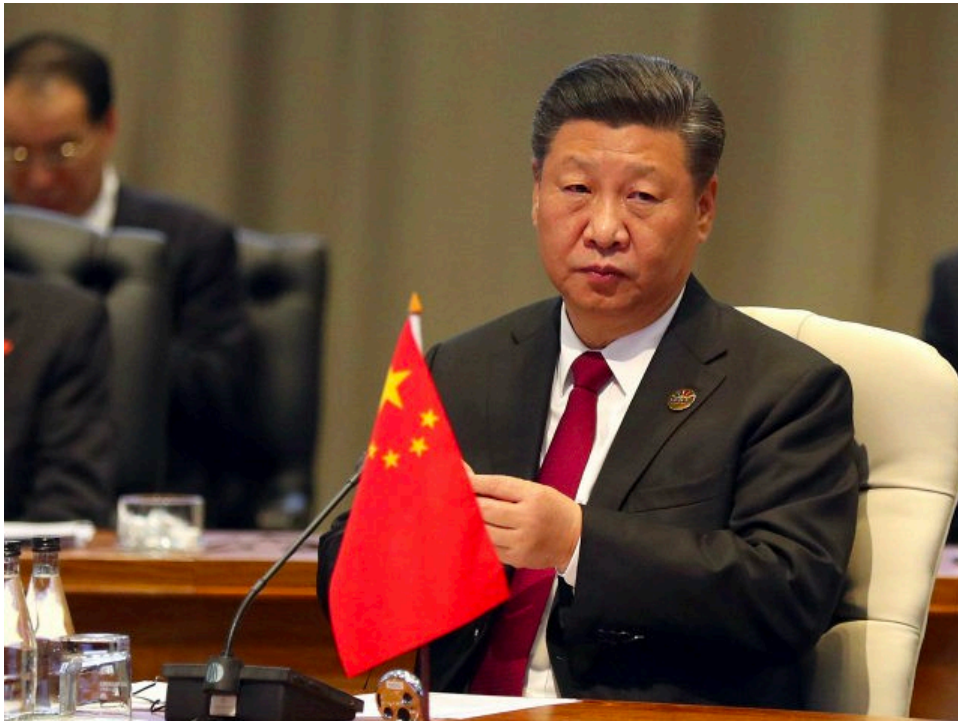


- Hu Jintao, 2002-2011



Authoritarianism in China

- Transformation of China's regime under Xi Jiaoping



Authoritarianism in Kazakhstan

- Nazarbayev's 'soft authoritarian' regime:
 - Consolidation in the 1990s
 - Persuasion in the 2000s
- After 'soft authoritarianism':
 - Zhanaozen
 - 2018-2020 protests and Tokayev succession
 - 2022 unrest



Authoritarianism in Russia

- Brief period of (quasi-)democratic rule, 1991-~2000
- Putin's political dominance:
 - President, 2000-08 and 2012-
 - Prime minister, 2008-2012



Explanations of authoritarianism

- Individual:
 - Agency
 - Incentives
- Systemic:
 - Domestic institutions
 - Culture
 - International system
 - Modernization

Takeaways

- Evolution of Chinese, Kazakhstani, and Russian regimes, their correspondence to multiple types of authoritarianism, and explanatory power of theories of regime persistence and change