

17.50, Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2006)
Prof. Chappell Lawson
Session 4: Social Structure, Class

State, recap

- French view vs. American view
- Why states strong: war, crisis, technology, leaders and regime type or tenure in office or personality, etc.
- But across space, controlling for war and technology
- Peru vs. Chile

Democracy

- Definition
- Democratic chain

Lens #1 Social structure: If I want to understand politics, what do I look at?

Cleavages in European history

What do Madison, Marx, Weber all agree on?

Where do they disagree?

Why does class matter so little?

What about ethnicity?

Primordialism vs. Constructivism

Genotype vs. phenotype (heritage vs. appearance)

Cross-cutting vs. cumulative cleavages (India)

Construction of social cleavages

Today

- Sequence of regimes
- Marxist model
- Primordialism vs. constructivism
- Socially salient, politically relevant, politically conflictual
- India and cross-cutting cleavages

According to the readings, what are big cleavages?

- **Class** - What do we mean by class?
- Machiavelli, Greeks, Romans, Marx, Weber, Madison
- Marx is the one who attributes most to class – don't have to be Marxist

Do you buy this? Why is it wrong? Why are class cleavages not so overwhelming? Why don't they determine how people vote very well? Why don't they lead to conflict and violence more often?

- Social mobility
- Reformism (German Social Democrats)
- Politicians like money issues (split the difference)
- Cross-cutting vs. cumulative cleavages
- Weber: it's about who can date your daughter (money ~ social status)

Democracy: How do cleavages affect odds of democracy?

- Background on democracy and economic distribution
- When not true?
 - Social mobility
 - Cross-cutting cleavages (give example of cumulative cleavages)
- Let's say there's no mobility and no cross-cutting cleavage; Why does economic division not the same as political division
 - People not yet organized; outmaneuvered
 - People misled systematically
- How might it be moderated?

How might it be finessed (DEAL)

Generally bad for democracy; why?

Dahl's argument

Dependent variable: Democracy

How to operationalize the class cleavage in a model (GINI, survey data, politicians' rhetoric,

How to operationalize ethnic cleavage (fragmentation vs. homogeneity)

How would you test these arguments?

- Dahl's tests
- Comparable cases
- Regression
- Show data

Aristotle's typology: first political scientist

Classical sequence of regimes