Social structure

Selection of leaders → Formulation of policy → Implementation of policy

Formation of citizen preferences

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The “orthodox” Marxist model

“Superstructure”

“Base”

Technology

Means of production

Class structure

Political structure

Ideology and culture

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Cross cutting and cumulative cleavages

This box represents Iraqi society

Other ethnic groups

Shia Arab

Sunni Arab

Kurd (mainly Sunni)
But there may be divisions within each group...

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...and yet more divisions

This box represents Iraqi society

Upper
Middle
Lower

Fundamentalist
Secular
Fundamentalist
Rural

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Many factors play a role in the politicization of social differences

Demographic or physical differences?

- Mutability
- Linked to social structure
- State behavior
- Communication
- Ease of mobilization

Socially salient differences?

- XC or cumul. cleavages
- # of groups
- State behavior
- Communication
- Ease of mobilization
- Barriers to entry in politics
- Leadership

Politically salient differences?

- # of groups
- Leadership
- Media
- Civil society
- Consociationalism
- Autonomy, federalism
- Police force

Politically conflictual?

Eye color
Race in Belize

Gender

Evangelicals in the U.S.

Hindus and Muslims in India

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