Civil Society and Social Capital
Followed by: Redistribution and the Welfare State

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Some questions

- What is social capital?
- What is civil society?
- Why don’t the poor soak the rich?
- Why do some democracies redistribute more than others?
The menu
Social capital and civil society
In democratic countries the science of association is the mother of science; the progress of all the rest depends upon the progress it has made.
Variation in institutional performance

FIGURE 4.1
Measuring institutional performance

- Cabinet stability
- Budget promptness
- Statistical and info services
- Reform legislation
- Legislative innovation
- Day care centers
- Family clinics
- Industrial policy instruments
- Agricultural spending capacity
- Local health unit expenditures
- Housing and urban development
- Bureaucratic responsiveness
Civic community: conceptual dimensions

- Civic engagement
- Political equality
- Solidarity, trust, tolerance
- Associations
Civic community: indicators

- Preference voting: personalism
- Referendum turnout
- Newspaper subscription
- Associations
Variation in civic community

FIGURE 4.4
The Civic Community in the Italian Regions

[Map of Italy with shading indicating civic variation]
The two are highly correlated

**FIGURE 4.5**
The Civic Community and Institutional Performance

Civic Community
Correlation: $r = .92$
Explanation: history of free cities in the North
Alternative explanations

- Conflict
- Social stability
- Education
- Urbanization
- Personnel Stability
- Communist party
- Modernization theory
Social capital

NORMS OF RECIPROCITY
+
NETWORKS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Abstract
We study whether a positive historical shock can generate long-term persistence in development. We show that Italian cities that achieved self-government in the Middle Ages have a higher level of civic capital today than similar cities in the same area that did not. The size of this effect increases with the length of the period of independence and its intensity. This effect persists even after accounting for the fact that cities did not become independent randomly. We conjecture that the Middle-Age experience of self-government fostered self-efficacy beliefs—beliefs in one’s own ability to complete tasks and reach goals—and this positive attitude, transmitted across generations, enhances civic capital today. Consistently, we find that fifth-graders in former free city-states exhibit stronger self-efficacy beliefs and that these beliefs are correlated with a higher level of civic capital. (JEL: O43, P16, O10)
Bowling for Fascism
Welfare State and Redistibution
Capitalism and Democracy
How can capitalism and democracy coexist? Why don’t the poor soak the rich?
Robin Hood Paradox

Redistribution is higher in more equal countries
Why do some democracies redistribute more than others?

- Power resources theory: strength of working class
- (Expectations of) social mobility
- Institutions:
  - PR vs. majoritarian
  - Federalism
  - Separation of powers
Electoral systems and redistribution

![Graph showing the relationship between countries and their log proportionality values.](Image)
## Electoral systems and partisanship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electoral System</th>
<th>Government Partisanship</th>
<th>Proportion of Right Governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportional</td>
<td>Left: 342 (8) Right: 120 (1)</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majoritarian</td>
<td>Left: 86 (0) Right: 256 (8)</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Excludes centrist governments (see text below for details).*
Why do some democracies redistribute more than others?

- Power resources theory: strength of working class
- Social mobility
- Institutions:
  - PR vs. majoritarian
  - Federalism
  - Separation of powers
- Racial heterogeneity
Race and redistribution: across countries

**Fig. 6.1. Racial Fractionalization and Social Welfare Spending**
Race and redistribution: in the US

Fig. 6.3. Maximum AFDC Benefits and Percent Black Across U.S. States
Why do some democracies redistribute more than others?

- Power resources theory: strength of working class
- Social mobility
- Institutions:
  - PR vs. majoritarian
  - Federalism
  - Separation of powers
- Racial heterogeneity
- Culture and beliefs
Fig. 7.1. Belief that Luck Determines Income and Welfare Spending
(Source: Calculations from GSS Data.)
What have we learned?
Lipset’s wisdom

“They who only know one country, know no country”
The Gov20 Trivia
THANK YOU!!
FOR A GREAT SEMESTER