Democracy and Democratization

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Questions from last week

- How is development political?
- Why do such smart people disagree?
Weingast’s paradox

“A government strong enough to protect property rights and enforce contracts is also strong enough to confiscate the wealth of its citizens”
Institutions and Development

- Institutions: inclusive or extractive
- Primacy of political institutions
North Korea vs. South Korea, reconsidered

Figure: Glaeser et al. 2004. “Do Institutions Cause Growth?” Journal of Economic Growth
Correlation is not causation

Number of People Who Drowned by Falling Into a Swimming Pool
- correlates with -
Number of Films Nicolas Cage Appeared In

Correlation: 67%

Sources: CDC & IMDB, tylervigen.com
What have we learned?
What have we learned?

“The thing is, if we don’t know whether we are doing any good, we are not any better than the Medieval doctors and their leeches. Sometimes the patient gets better, sometimes the patient dies. Is it the leeches? Is it something else? We don’t know.” Esther Duflo, Professor of Economics, MIT
Agenda

- What is democracy?
- How do democracies emerge?
- Why is it that rich countries tend to be democratic and poor countries tend to be non-democratic?
- Is democracy possible everywhere?
Today’s menu
The lay of the land

Figure: Freedom House, Map of Freedom 2017

* indicates a territory.
Facts

MODERNIZATION: THEORIES & FACTS

Figure 1
Probability that a Regime is Democratic, by Per Capita Income

*1985 PPP USD-purchasing-power parities in U.S. dollars.
“There is one general process of which democratization is but the final stage. Modernization consists of a gradual differentiation and specialization of social structures that culminates in a separation of political structures from other structures and makes democracy possible. The specific causal chains consist of sequences of industrialization, urbanization, education, communication, mobilization, and political incorporation, among innumerable others: a progressive accumulation of social changes that ready a society to proceed to its culmination, democratization.” (p.157)
Lipset’s Law

“The more well-to-do a nation the greater the chances it will sustain democracy”
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Theory

![Graph showing the relationship between Level of Per Capita Income and Probability of Regime Transition. The graph includes two lines: one for Probability of Transition to Democracy and another for Probability of Democratic Breakdown. The probability of regime transition decreases as the level of per capita income increases.](image)
“No democracy ever fell in a country with a per capita income higher than that of Argentina in 1975, 6055 USD”
Polyarchy??

**Figure 1.2** Liberalization, Inclusiveness, and Democratization
Elections without democracy
When does polyarchy emerge?

**Figure 1.4**

- Costs of toleration
- Costs of repression

Probability of competitive regime
Why are you making me read Barrington Moore?

“...The era of the modern history that the Barrington Moore problematic was created to grapple with has come to its end [...] We thus need something more advanced that deals with problems we have not yet solved rather than those we have.” Brad De Long, Professor of Economics, UC Berkeley, Harvard Social Studies Alumnus

Daniel Ziblatt ”Why do we still read Barrington Moore?”
“No bourgeois, no democracy” (p. 418)
THREE ROADS TO MODERNITY

1. Parliamentary Democracy
   (bourgeois revolution)
   {England, France, US}
   = Strong bourgeoisie + nobility into commercial agriculture + no peasant question

2. Fascism
   (conservative revolution from above)
   {Germany, Japan}
   = (Strong aristocracy + bourgeoisie) vs. peasants
   Labor-repressive systems

3. Communism
   (peasant revolution)
   {Russia, China}
   = Strong peasantry vs. Weak aristocracy and bourgeoisie
Will China democratize?