Democracy and Authoritarianism in the Developing World

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Politics according to Harold Lasswell

“POLITICS is about WHO gets WHAT, WHEN, and HOW”
Questions from last week

▶ What do modernization theory and Marxism (Moore) have in common?
The menu
This book grew out of a conversation over lunch in the old Coolidge Hall cafeteria at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA). What began as a discussion of political scandals involving leaked tapes and autocrats in Peru and Ukraine led to a realization that the two countries’ regimes were surprisingly similar – and that we had no term for these regimes. We wrote a conference paper on the two cases, never imagining that the project would grow to encompass 35 countries across five continents (or that both of our initial cases would turn out to be outliers!). Nor did we have quite the right label – until Tim Colton inadvertently invented the term “competitive authoritarianism” when he misremembered our inferior moniker in a conversation in the hallway.
“Democracy is a system in which parties lose elections”
What is competitive authoritarianism?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Democracy</th>
<th>Competitive Authoritarianism</th>
<th>Full Authoritarianism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status of Core Democratic Institutions (Elections, Civil Liberties)</strong></td>
<td>Systematically respected.</td>
<td>Exist and are meaningful, but systematically violated in favor of incumbent.</td>
<td>Nonexistent or reduced to façade status.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Widely viewed as only route to power.</td>
<td>Widely viewed as primary route to power.</td>
<td>Not viewed as a viable route to power.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Status of Opposition</strong></td>
<td>Competes on more or less equal footing with incumbent.</td>
<td>Major opposition is legal and can compete openly, but is significantly disadvantaged by incumbent abuse.</td>
<td>Major opposition banned, or largely underground or in exile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level of Uncertainty</strong></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Lower than democracy but higher than full authoritarianism.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1.1. Comparing Democratic, Competitive Authoritarian, and Closed Regimes*
The dynamics of competitive authoritarianism

**Figure 2.2.** Linkage, organizational power, and regime outcomes.
Oil and democracy

The First Law of Petropolitics

Why the price of oil and the pace of freedom always move in opposite directions

By Thomas L. Friedman
Will China democratize?