

PSC 201, Week 5

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 10

Thomas Cronin , "Direct Democracy "

Notes by Taylor Chestnutt, 10/11/2018 10:27

Cronin explains how although we have a representative form of government aspects of direct democracy have entered state and local governments across the country. Cronin highlights three aspects: initiative, referendum and recalls all of which are forms of direct democracy that have found a way into lower levels of government. He uses California Proposition 13 to demonstrate how popular referendums can be compared to other elections held the same day.

Cronin goes on to explain that although the American public wants more of a voice and a "sensible/sound democracy" the way to do that is not through populism but through electing better and more experienced politicians. Cronin writes that the American public wants their voice heard/represented however, the general public lacks the drive or knowledge to effectively influence politics.

Cronin goes on to compare the advantages and disadvantages of both a populist democratic system and a representative system. Cronin warns of the dangers of the majority in a direct democracy and warns how large interest groups will always influence the results, Cronin writes "Big money will always win." Cronin after comparing the advantages and disadvantages of a direct democracy clearly states how unrealistic the system is. When looking at a Representative system Cronin acknowledged both the benefits and short comings of the form of democracy and states " representative government is always in a process of developing and decaying.

In conclusion Cronin states that public opinion is helped shaped by an enlightened elite and the disparities among the people in terms of how they can influence politics/policy is enormous. Cronin recognizes the value of initiative, referendum and recall and writes the people will never give up this protection. This quote sums up Cronin's writing as a whole "We pay a price for practicing democracy whatever the form."

PSC 201, Week 5

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 10

V.O Key, "Public Opinion and American Democracy "

Notes by David Cook, 10/11/2018 12:48

V.O Key wrote "Public Opinion and American Democracy" in 1961 after the election of President Kennedy. Key stated that although all political leaders do not share the same beliefs, they do share a common belief that public opinion should prevail. He also writes that in order to have a thriving and stable democracy diversity is needed within government. He introduces the "Opinion dike" which is a system that uses public opinion to keep political leaders in check. It prevents them from venturing away from public opinion and blames them if anything goes wrong. Key recognizes that a elite ruling class exist in a democracy but notes that their opinions and views are diluted when polled with those of the masses. He also adds that it is fairly easy for a member of the masses to join the elite ruling party.

PSC 201, Week 5

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

David Moore, "The Opinion Makers"

Notes by Hampton Hamner, 10/11/2018 10:26

An insider exposes the truth behind the polls. David is a former senior editor at the Gallup Poll and a political science professor. Moore lists 3 key problems that he feels that are wrong with the U.S. polls.

Poll Problem #1- Pollsters fail to ask people how strongly they hold to their opinions.

Poll Problem #2- Pollsters fail to report on the public's indecision; instead they ask questions for the people to make a choice.

Poll Problem #3- Pollsters assume that everyone has enough knowledge to answer a question, even on complex policy issues.

Moore explains, Polls have the potential to enhance democracy by ensuring people's voices are heard clearly and regularly, but media reporting on poll results demonstrates preferences. This means polls have the potential to misrepresent what people truly think.

To demonstrate problem #1 Moore flashes back to the Iraq war, when Gallup reported that Americans favored going to war 59% to 38%. However, a follow-up questioner found that only 29% of Americans supported going to war and would be upset if the war did not happen. 30% said otherwise.

Polls' tendency to understate the number of people who are undecided is Moore's favorite bailiwick. The standard question employed during campaign season is: If the election were held today, would you vote for Candidate X or Candidate Y? "I don't know" is not presented as an option, and few people take the initiative to tell the pollster that they're undecided.

PSC 201, Week 5

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Lawrence Jacobs and Robert Shapiro, "Politicians don't pander"

Notes by Kirakia Fefelov, 10/12/2018 00:58

Bill Clinton

- The Republicans disregarded the public's opinion on the impeachment of Bill Clinton (the majority of the public did not want him impeached)
- By not listening to the public they contradicted the most widely accepted presumption about politics "that politicians slavishly follow public opinion"
- Two-thirds of Americans approved his job performance, opposed his impeachment and removal from office, and favored a legislative censure as an appropriate alternative punishment
- The impeachment of Bill Clinton revealed one of the most important developments in American politics "the widening gulf between politicians' policy decisions and the preferences of the American people toward specific issues"

Politicians

- If they responded to public opinion it would compromise their philosophical convictions
 - It would also risk alienating ideologically extreme party activists and other supporters who contribute to their election campaign
 - Politicians pursued a strategy called crafted talk- politicians track public to craft their speeches in favor of the public opinion
 - They used this to offset the potential political cost of not following the preferences of the average voter
 - They want the best of both worlds "to enact their preferred policies and to be reelected"
 - Politicians will try to change public opinion by priming- they "stay on message" to highlight standards or considerations for the public to use in evaluating policy proposals
 - Example: Republicans emphasized "big government" during their speeches to prompt public to think about its uneasiness about government
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PSC 201, Week 6

Article (ed) readings, Unit

Emily Cadei, "What Millennials Want from Hillary Clinton"

Notes by Amanda Mohun, 10/11/2018 10:13

Hillary Clinton was the Democratic candidate in the 2016 election. She was trying to get the voters that had twice elected Barack Obama. Millennials tended to lean more towards Clinton rather than the Republican nominee, Donald Trump.

Like Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton was planning to make college debt free, however, that proved to not be sufficient enough for our modern day society.

A senior of a university/college noted that even though the lucrative idea of free college sounds amazing and everyone wants it, it would not be sustainable and would still have to be paid for through taxes.

Millennials wanted to hear about more than just free higher education. They also wanted to hear about issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, climate justice, and police accountability. Many believed there needs to be a timeline for how such issues would be addressed. Millennials believe that because there is no such steady timeline for dealing with these issues, there will never be resolutions. In fact, many millennials feel as though there is no actual solution being presented, just addressed.

Having grown up in dysfunctional political times, Millennials are currently paranoid of modern politics, many choosing to just ignore it.

PSC 201, Week 6

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Morley Winograd and Michael Hais, "Millennial Makeover"

Notes by Avery Harrison, 10/18/2018 10:31

Millennials are twice as likely to use the net for political information, which will increase politicians to use social media.

The second trend for the importance of online campaigning is the increasing number of millennials.

About 2/3 of all millennials consider their friends an important source of information on whats cool .

Nearly 80% of Americans are online, over 1/3 of them report that they spend more time online than they do watching tv. They are disproportionately more influential than the average citizen mainly because they are active in sharing their ideas/opinions.

Because of the size of the millennial generation, with their new information and technology, their attitudes and beliefs will overwhelm defenders of the status quo and reshape American politics for decades to come.

PSC 201, Week 7

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 7

Larry Sabato , ""Feeding Frenzy""

Notes by Amber Ford, 10/19/2018 16:21

Feeding Frenzy is a term Larry Sabato used in his book in 1991. This term meaning the press attacks a wounded politician whose record, and/or his character has been questioned. In modern American politics, journalists go after wounded politicians and create the latest news on what they have gathered.

Many people in journalism take on the role as "gatekeeper", which enables them to take the place of party leaders and decide is is worthy enough to be in high office. The news media basically strips the candidate naked of their campaign trail and dig deep into their personal lives to make sure everyone knows the background of the candidate they are choosing.

Overtime, it has become clear that the press has become more obsessed with the gossip rather than governance. They behave like wild animals out in the world when they are trying to get the latest scoop. This is why the term frenzy is known as a disorderly activity, since most journalist aren't very thoughtful with their information.

The book defines the term feeding frenzy as the press coverage attending any political event or circumstance where a critical mass of journalists leap to cover the same embarrassing or scandalous subject and pursue it intensely.

Advance media technology has improved the way people can view campaign coverage. Technology such as miniature cameras and satellite broadcasting has made tv easier to go live. This helps put more of a politicians utterances on record.

PSC 201, Week 7

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 12

David Campbell, "Why We Vote"

Notes by Will Bearden, 10/11/2018 20:31

Campbell starts off with the reason why he wrote this article. In 1989 there was a vote in Boston that received only one vote. This was astonishing because the precinct had 275 other registrants. The vote came from none other than a lady named Traci Hodgson. When asked why she voted she admitted to knowing little about the candidates but she still felt it was her duty to vote since she has the right. This led Campbell to ask the question, "Why do we vote?"

There are two main schools of thought when it comes to politics. E. E. Schattschneider wrote, "At the root of politics is the universal language of conflict." This would support the idea that politics encourages conflict with others. Madison believed that political participation is driven by protecting one's interest, and Tocqueville added saying that political participation is driven by a want to fulfill one's duty. These both support that political involvement stems from the want to benefit one's self. Washington disagreed saying that a republic should be free of strife among the citizens.

The next point that Campbell made was the idea that where you live and how you were raised affects how you act as an adult and he gave 3 key points.

Communities shape the civic and political engagement of the people

The engagement of adolescents is shaped by where they live

The adolescents' engagement links directly to their engagement as adults

This supports his claim and also links to the idea that a politically diverse community also affects our involvement. There are two types of involvement, civic and political.

Civic engagement would be the idea that you are involved with the community such as volunteering to tutor. Political engagement would be fulfilling your duty as a citizen such as voting.

The idea of diversity supports the claim that the more diverse you are as a community, the more political engagement you will see and the less civic engagement you see. This helps prove that your community shapes the way you get involved with government if you even do at all.

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 4

Howard Kurtz, "Roger's Reality Show"

Notes by Juan White, 10/17/2018 19:36

Author Howard Kurtz discusses the powers and importance of Roger Ailes within the article. Ailes is a big and dominating name in TV production and politics that you want on your side to help you gain the ground you want and need. Ailes changed Fox to make it and its viewers have a much more conservative view. He manipulates what's being said so viewers see everything from a conservative point of view. He wanted to make Fox oppose and compete views with its opposite side CNN who is known as a liberal
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Ailes has been doing this for a long time (hints he helped Nixon get elected). Ailes knows what brings good business and what fights to pick. If he's against you bad things are sure to come. For example they exposed Mitt Romney's opponent by asking him about his border policy. They strategize how to expose the weakness of the opponent to better Romney. This article reveals that Ailes has his foot in every important door and makes himself known in different ways. Big name politicians and other important people around the globe all want him in their corner not only because it looks good but to gain his help and knowledge. Pugnacious conservatism means behaving in a combative nature while maintaining commitment to traditional values and ideas with opposition to change or innovation.

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 10

Lawrence Jacobs/Robert Shapiro, "â€œPoliticians Donâ€™t Panderâ€"

Notes by Katey Dalrymple, 10/11/2018 10:22

-Bill Clintonâ€™s case showed us that politicians follow public opinion like a dog to a bone.

-The same number of people that showed disapproval(2/3) of Clintonâ€™s misconduct in polls approved his job performance, imposed impeachment and favored legislative censure as punishment.

- Politicians respond to the public in two ways: assemble info on public opinion to design government policy. They use this to enact their preferred policies and to be re-elected

- They also use â€œcraft talkâ€ to change public opinion in order to offset political costs of not following the preference of average voters. You could see an example of over confident craft talk in Clintonâ€™s health reform in 1993-94.

- This shows the divide between politicians policy decisions and the preferences of the American people on specific issues.

#NAME?

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 10

Walter Dean Burnham, "Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics"

Notes by Kirakia Fefelov, 10/18/2018 10:42

Summary

- Written by Walter Dean Burnham in 1970
- Inspired by VO Key's "A Theory of Critical Elections"
- States that some elections cause a turning point in American politics.
- These critical elections differ from "typical elections"
- Burnham argues these elections occur at roughly equal intervals apart in time "uniform periodicity"
- Claims that these elections are sparked by a trigger point which leads to tension, then to mass interest which eventually leads to a shift in office and finally major policy changes

Characteristics of a Critical Election

- Associated with short lived but very intense disruptions of "normal" voting trends.
- Majority parties become the minority.
- The elections are characterized by abnormally high intensity.
- Results in major shifts in conventional behavior among political parties.
- Increase in Ideological polarization
- Features heavy voter participation
- Causes current leadership to become more rigid and dogmatic
- Associated with formation of Voting Coalitions

Characteristics of American Politics

- Critical realignment is used as the chief tension-management device available to a political system
- Used by an underdeveloped political system to get rebalanced with the socioeconomic system
- There are not stable policy majorities
- Intense and focused minorities with well-defined interests
- Bargaining either with other countries or interest groups which is referred to as "politics as usual"
- Political parties as organizations are interested in control of offices but not of government
- Once there is a successful routine of getting into office there is no motive to change that routine

Historical Examples

- Revolution of 1800-1st example of power shifting from one party to another. Federalist to Democratic-Republican
 - 1828- Marked the start of Democratic dominance in federal politics
 - 1860-Lincoln elected by winning the Northern states, tension begin and civil war starts a year later.
 - 1896-Republican (McKinley) wins -Began the fourth party system
 - 1932-FDR thanks to the Roosevelt Coalition ends Republican dominance.
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PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 12

Russell Patterson, "Strange Bedfellows"

Notes by Collin Wagner, 10/16/2018 19:25

Author Russell Peterson starts off his article saying that "Politics make strange bedfellows." These bedfellows that he is speaking of is political news and late night comedy television. Russell gives a statistic that in 2001 "61 percent of people under 30 got their political news from late night comedy shows. This story was written in 2008, and the shows that Russell include are The David Letterman Show, The Conan O'Brien Show, and The Jay Leno Show. These opinion polls have raised some doubts about how politically informed young people are now. News programming has fallen into a state of total disrepair. The news mostly just talks about human interest stories that do not inform people about what is really going in our country nowadays. The regular viewer will find their information about real issues and trivial human interest stories to be blurred on television. What news you do get is either "Gloom and Doom" or ads, so Russell states that if both the comedy shows and the news will tell you the same thing; at least the comedy shows are funny.

Russell continues to say that although comedy shows introduce apathy, they also add another dimension to the interpretation of current events. Russell states that we need to understand this new breed of political satire, and to analyze this new way of informing people of current events. These comedy shows typically poke fun at both political parties on a pretty equal ratio of "blow for blow". This strategy of comedy is penned as "equal opportunity offenders". Jay Leno states that this method is more to retain viewers than any kind of political fairness. Russell argues that we should hold political comedy reporters to the same levels of accountability as the news reporters, but he doubts that they ever will change their stream of information.

Russell states that these new political jokes are all based on character. These jokes are not based on the politicians merit in any sense; but their character flaws and personality quirks are put up for jokes. These comics put forward a very nihilistic and cynical view of American Politics. These political jokes illustrate how deep down Americans feel that their Democracy is flawed. That's why most of our political humor is often anti-political, because most Americans seem to regard our actual governmental structures with disdain and contempt. This anti-political humor atmosphere is everywhere. These comedic commentators don't take a small segment of Democracy as flawed, their jokes reflect the belief that our entire system of government has failed.

Russell states that late night comedy did not invent this new "air quote culture", but they have been instrumental to bringing this cynicism to the mainstream. These shows have reinforced the notion that nothing in politics is ever really going to improve,

and that every politician is wrong and interchangeable. These talk show hosts have also spread the idea that Democracy is a futile affair to young disaffected people.

Russell states that is perfectly natural, and even healthy, to \poke fun at politicians. The only problem with these shows is that so little of their jokes are actually about Politics; most of their jokes poke fun at the individual, not the policies they have taken. This new breed of political humor is bad because it breeds so much cynicism and nihilism into its viewers. Russell ends this article by saying that our systems flaws are not a cause for cynicism, they are a cause for humility and vigilance to change them. They can also be a cause for laughter.

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 12

Kate Zernike, ""Boiling Mad""

Notes by Avery Harrison, 10/18/2018 14:03

Kate Zernike explains the motivations that created the controversial Tea Party Movement. The Tea Party was a fiscally conservative political movement within the Republican party. They wanted lower taxes and a reduction of the national debt of the U.S. and Federal budget deficit through decreased government spending. The Tea Party had goals which were limited government, fiscal responsibility, and free market economy.

They did not see themselves as racist, they promoted states rights, and they also believed in that people will get what's rightfully theirs. Though all of this, the Tea Party was very divided.

Rand Paul was running for the Republican nomination for the U.S senate in Kentucky. It was said that no contest would be a better test of the new movement of electoral power. Paul had the backing of Sarah Palin and Dick Armey. His supporters spoke about his campaign as a mission.

The Tea Party movement is a message to Washington that we are unhappy and that we want things done differently.

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Diana Mutz, "How the Mass Media Divides Us"

Notes by Lane, Meagan Kornegay, Chase, 10/11/2018 10:21

*Believed that heated debates made for good shows, but make the viewers more extreme with their belief.

*"Shout Shows" reached a peak when John Stewart appeared on the "Crossfire" and openly criticized this program and others alike for its "partisan hackery" which was hurting America.

*Politeness and civility are means of demonstrating mutual respect. uncivil discourse increases polarization by making people think even less of their opponents than they already did.

*Television favors shows that cause polarization

>some say they find it disgusting but can't stop watching

*Evolutionary psychologists believe:

>advantage of having brains that automatically pay attention to conflict as a means of staying alive in earlier era

>since we don't have to face actual conflict and can just watch it through TV, we are able to tolerate incivility

*Made an in depth mock political talk show with actors (Mutz)

>2 debates, 1 heated, 1 Calm and civil

>Results: [uncivilized] came away with basically the same feelings as their preferred candidate. Encouraged and "Black & White" view of the world. [civilized] less polarization= less likely to view their opponent in such a negative way.

*Compared to being a third party viewer to a couple's argument (tension, awkwardness, discomfort)

*Heightened arousal from the confrontation can make you forget the substance for the argument.

*Uncivil political debates that produce strong emotional reactions is unlikely to further the cause of political moderation.

*Some say the US is in a "civility crisis"

Judith Rodin claimed that all across the country there was incivility and political debates were too coarse

*Public exposure to incivility is on the rise.

*How can we get people to watch more civilized debated and continue watching instead of going back to heated debates.

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit

Ronald Brownstein, "The Second Civil War"

Notes by Koby Townsend, 10/11/2017 20:01

Brownstein describes the loyalty that politicians owe to their "base", adding to the influence of the most extreme partisans in both parties.

America is the richest and most powerful country in the world, with questions as if it is the richest and most powerful country in the history of the world.

However, Washington has problems it cannot seem to fix such as:

A plan to reduce its dependence on foreign oil

A plan to improve security at its borders and find a humane way to deal with the estimated twelve million illegal immigrants within the country

Can't agree on the steps to rebuild economic security for middle class Americans

It cannot agree on an approach to fight the threat of Islamic terrorism

None of these problems are new, they have all been discussed for years in the media. Why, then, has America failed to make more progress against these challenges?

- The answer, above all, is that the day-to-day functioning of American politics now inhibits the constructive compromises between the parties required to confront these problems.

- The central obstacle to more effective action against our most pressing problems is an unrelenting polarization of American politics. Competition and even contention between rival parties has been part of American political life since its founding. That partisan rivalry most often has been a source of energy, innovation, and inspiration.

- The two parties (Democrats and Republicans) do not intertwine, so you have to choose one or the other.

- But this polarization of political life imposes a tangible cost on every American family--a failure to confront all of the problems listed above with sensible solutions that could improve life for average Americans.

- The tendency toward polarization has been fueled, on the one hand, by the rise of feminism and the gay rights movement, and on the other by the increasing popularity of fundamentalist and evangelical churches.

Changes within the political system that have carried America into the age of hyperpartisanship such as:

The shifts in the way the media interacts with political life

The changes in the rules and practices of Congress

The strategies pursued by presidents and other political leaders

- All of these changes are diminishing our capacity to resolve conflicts. However, the consequences of hyperpartisanship are not all negative. The new alignment offers voters clear, stark choices.

- Americans say they see important differences in the two parties, which results in a larger number of voters. The number of people who volunteered and contributed money has soared too.
 - At its core, the problem isn't too many ideologues but too few conciliators willing to challenge the ideologues, and partisan warriors on each side demanding a polarized politics. The first step toward lowering the temperature in American politics is a political leadership that would rather douse fires than start them.
 - The forces encouraging polarization are now deeply entrenched, and they are unlikely to be entirely neutralized: More of the most antagonistic features of American politics over the past fifteen years are likely to endure indefinitely.
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PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit

Walter Dean Burnham, "Critical Elections"

Notes by Justala Simpson, 10/12/2017 04:37

I. Background

Walter Dean Burnham was born in 1930, in Columbus, Ohio. Burnham is an authority on American elections and voting patterns.

Burnham is a Political Scientist Professor emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin. Before his time in Texas, Burnham worked closely with V.O. Key, during his time at Harvard University, where he was awarded his Ph.D. in 1963.

II. Theory of Critical Realignments

The idea that some elections have more of a long-term impact than other elections. Abrupt coalitional changes among the masses (the electorate).

Impact: Vital to the system of political action and political operation.

III. Critical Realignments v. [Secular Realignment, Stable Alignment Eras, & Deviating Elections]

Critical Realignments are extremely short-lived.

Critical Realignments do not occur at random.

They occur every generation (30-38 years).

Most notable elections 1800, 1828, 1860, 1896, & 1932.

Critical Realignments are closely related to periods of high intensity, which results in an increase of voter participation, polarization among political parties, and directly influences the jargon of party nominations and platform writing.

IV. Conditions for Critical Realignment

Critical Realignments spur from emergent tensions in society.

Results of Critical Realignment

V. Critical Realignments result in the following:

Major policy changes.

Alterations in the role of institutional elites.

Redefinition of the impact of voters, political parties, and political boundaries.

VI. Conclusion

Critical Realignments are extremely vital in maintaining political action. However, one must bear in mind that realignments are circumstantial. The intense transitional phases of the political system will generally result in a critical realignment.

PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Winograd and Hais, "Millennial Makeover"

Notes by Kelvin Bowser, 10/15/2018 08:47

Technology serves to enable changes by creating ways to reach new voters with a message that relates directly to their concerns.

New generation demands that the nation's institutions change to accommodate its beliefs and values.

The new generation has a high tolerance for lifestyle and ethnic differences and support an activist approach. United in finding win-win solutions to America's problems.

Authors speak of how JK Rowlings relates the characters of her Harry Potter book series to the differences in generations and how the disparity is clear amongst them. Millennials are the young and eager to learn wizards who always find a way to solve problems while staying within the rules set for them.

They add inserts from Former President Obama's speech in Selma, Alabama in which he relates the millennial generation to the Joshua generation in the Bible. Speaks of how Moses took the people out of Egypt, but could not cross over into the promised land just yet. They had to wait until the Joshua generation grew older and strong enough to battle for the

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PSC 201, Week 8

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Part Thirteen-Walter Dean Burnham , “Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics”

Notes by Taylor Chesnutt, 10/18/2018 10:43

Written by Walter Dean Burnham in 1970 and Inspired by VO Keys “A Theory of Critical Elections”. States that some elections cause a turning point in American politics and that These critical elections differ from “typical elections.” Burnham argues these elections occur at roughly equal intervals apart in time “uniform periodicity” Burnham states that these elections are sparked by a trigger point which leads to tension, then to mass interest which eventually leads to a shift in office and finally major policy changes.

Characteristics of a Critical Election:

Associated with short lived but very intense disruptions of “normal” voting trends.

Majority parties become the minority.

The elections are characterized by abnormally high intensity.

Results in major shifts in conventional behavior among political parties.

Increase in Ideological polarization.

Features heavy voter participation.

Causes current leadership to become more rigid and dogmatic.

Associated with formation of Voting Coalitions.

Characteristics of American Politics:

Critical realignment is used as the chief tension-management device available to a political system.

Used by an underdeveloped political system to get rebalanced with the socioeconomic system.

There are not stable policy majorities.

Intense and focused minorities with well-defined interests.

Bargaining either with other countries or interest groups which is referred to as “politics as usual”.

Political parties as organizations are interested in control of offices but not of government.

Once there is a successful routine of getting into office there is no motive to change that routine.

Historical examples used by Burnham:

Revolution of 1800-1st example of power shifting from one party to another. Federalist to Democratic-Republican

1828- Marked the start of Democratic dominance in federal politics

1860-Lincoln elected by winning the Northern states, tension furthers and civil war starts a year later.

1896-Republican (McKinley) wins -Began the fourth party system

1932-FDR thanks to the Roosevelt Coalition ends Republican dominance.
Since the writing of the book elections such as 1980,1992,1994(Congressional),2008 and
2016 are now considered at least in some aspects critical elections.

PSC 201, Week 8

(ed) readings, Unit N/A

Aaron Sharockman, "The about the 2016 presidential campaign"

Notes by Ziion Sibley, 10/11/2018 10:28

Politifact is a fact checking website since 2007 that fact checks celebrity statements, business statements and political statements. They have amassed a library of over 950 fact checks specifically for presidential major nominees. They have fact checked everyone from Mike Gravel in 2008 to Bobby Jindal in 2016. The fact check is scaled from True to Half true to mostly false to false to liar liar pants on fire.

In 2016, Clinton was proclaimed the most truthful of the democrats while the former Florida Governor Jeb Bush was awarded most accurate for the republicans. When Trump was compared against Clinton, Trump was 4x more likely to tell a falsehood.

Referring back to a simpler time in 2008 Politifact has concluded it was a much more honest campaign. Obama and McCain rarely scaled in on the pants on fire. It was also concluded that Obama told more truths in 2008 than he did in 2012.

In conclusion, I find myself wondering when are falsehoods taken to far. Is there a correlation between experience and truth telling? All politicians lie. Is this purposefully misleading to the american people or just an honest mistake.

PSC 201, Week 9

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 12

Dante Scala, "From Stormy Weather "

Notes by Wade Thomas, 10/16/2017 21:52

Scala explains how the New Hampshire primary is one of the most influential states in choosing major party nominees for the presidential election. He describes this as "a uniquely American story of the idiosyncrasies of local politics mixing with national trends to produce an unforeseen development."

New Hampshire provides these political party nominees with momentum. Scala describes that a candidate's "momentum" is measured on a weekly to daily basis by the answer of the question: What is the likelihood that the candidate will go on and win the party's presidential nomination? Scala explains that if the likelihood of a candidate winning the presidential nomination is rising, that candidate has momentum, and vice versa. A better than expected performance fuels a candidate's momentum and increases the likelihood they will win the presidential nomination. Momentum can aid in the availability of other valuable resources as well such as money, media attention, and popularity.

Scala explains that the first stage leading up to the New Hampshire primary is "The Exhibition Season," which is a building and testing period. In this stage, a candidate's ability to raise money is critical benchmark for a successful campaign. Under the media spotlight, New Hampshire becomes an important state for grassroots campaigning because of the image the action conveys to the public.

The second stage leading up to the New Hampshire primary is "The Media Fishbowl," in which the Iowa caucuses set the storyline for first primary in New Hampshire. The media becomes a feeding frenzy of how the people of New Hampshire feel abo

PSC 201, Week 9

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 12

Dennis Johnson, ""No Place for Amateurs""

Notes by Robbie McKenna, 10/16/2017 23:20

Dennis Johnson talks about political consultants, and why they are important in modern elections. Political consultants are used in every level of elections (presidential-below state wide).

Political consultants makes key decisions, campaign communications, ballot strategy, bring direction and discipline to campaigns and are responsible for television/ radio commercials that promote their client.

Johnson explains how political consultants reached fame at expense of their clients. (Dick Morris example with Clinton). However, some consultants do work behind the scenes, they have become essential in the world of modern elections.

PSC 201, Week 9

Serow (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Zernike, "Boiling mad"

Notes by Peyton DeFleron, 10/11/2018 10:16

The Tea Party came onto the scenes at the height of the Great Recession.

They emboldened republicans to find a new administration to get things done.

They also brought together young tech savvy people with older people who were alarmed at how the country was doing during that time span.

The movement was the latest among conservative discontent in America, also grew by distrust of the government much older than the US

The parties problems started with the election of Obama. Along with the election of the first African American president was with the government intervention that followed the economic crisis of 2008&2009. Also the members of the Tea Party tended to be better educated and better of than other Americans.

PSC 201, Week 10

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 11

E.E. Schattschneider, "From The Semisovereign People"

Notes by Sean Kent, 10/24/2017 21:11

In this passage it talks about two contrasting kinds of politics, pressure and party politics. Pressure groups are more small scale organizations, while party groups are very large. Pressure groups have played a major role in Americans politics and theory. The political theory has been improved by people trying to create a political universe revolving around the group. There has been questions made up concerning these groups, one major question " Are pressure groups the universal basic ingredient of all political situations, and do they explain everything?"

The way you have to answer this question you would have to review political theory and have to distinguish between organized and unorganized groups. In Democratic theory literature, the body of common agreement found in the community is known as the "consensus" without it its believed that no democratic system can last. Then it talks about how all the groups are divided up into four pieces of pie. That they all can be distinguish apart. The pressure system is usually organized special interest groups. The pressure system is usually concerned with the upper class bias. Pressure politics is a selective process that was designed to serve diffuse interests. The system is skewed, loaded, and unbalanced in favor of a fraction of minority. The outcome of pressure politics and party politics will be completely different.

PSC 201, Week 11

Serow (ed) readings, Unit

Gregory Wawro and Eric Schickler, "Filibuster"

Notes by Justala Simpson, 11/11/2017 11:13

Background

Gregory J. Wawro received a Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1997. He specializes in American politics and political methodology.

Eric Schickler is Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. He specializes in the areas of American politics, U.S. Congress, rational choice theory, American political development, and public opinion.

The Impact of the Filibuster

Filibusters, in the United States Senate, allow senators to debate on a bill or nomination for an unlimited amount of time. This component of debate is unique to the Senate.

The filibuster, oftentimes, causes mixed emotions. So, Senator Robert Byrd creates an argument to justify the presence of the filibuster.

The Findings of Sen. Byrd

Filibusters are a necessary evil.

Eliminating filibusters completely destroys the Senate, as we know it.

It is a protection against majority tyranny.

Outlet to increase the popularity of individual senators.

Limitations on Filibusters.

Memorandum of Understanding on Judicial Nominations: "nominees should only be filibustered under extraordinary circumstances, and each signatory must use his or her own discretion and judgement in determining whether such circumstances exist"

The Supermajority

98% of all actions in the Senate are done by unanimous consent.

Constitutional Supermajorities: "2/3" of Senate to ratify a treaty and "2/3" of Senate to convict an impeached president.

A supermajority of "3/4" — is required to end a filibuster.

There are several individuals who disagree with the presence of supermajorities.

However, no initiative has been taken to alter the system.

PSC 201, Week 11

Serow and Ladd (ed) readings, Unit 5

David Price, "The Congressional Experience"

Notes by Sean Kent, 11/2/2017 09:39

The idea of politics, they believe that you need to separate things that you want to invest most of your time in. It is a must that you delegate a great deal into the staff and develop a mutual understanding with in the office. You shouldn't have a member of your office that needs controlling. Every member of Congress performs three functions: lawmaker, ombudsmen, and educator. A member should defend Congress right or wrong. It is politically profitable to "run for Congress by running against it." It is politics nature for campaigns to oversimplify and polarize. There work task is to inspire confidence and enthusiasm in campaigning and governing.

PSC 201, Week 12

Serow (ed) readings, Unit

Gil Troy, "Leading from the Center"

Notes by Justala Simpson, 11/12/2017 15:47

Background

Gil Troy, an American Historian, is a distinguished scholar in North American History at McGill University. He has also taught at the Ruderman Program on Relations between Israel and American Jewry at Haifa University, at the Interdisciplinary Center at Herzliya, and at the Rothberg Program for Overseas Students at Hebrew University.

Leading from the Center

Troy presents several arguments in support of presidents "leading from the center".

Leading from the center is the American secret to political success.

America needs true centrists, as presidents, who are "visionary enough to preserve core values but nationalistic enough and popular enough to root their actions in a broad consensus, which they must often build."

Leading from the center requires patience.

Moderation is difficult in an age of extravagance.

Leading from the center requires compromises and coalition building.

Leading from the center incorporates natural mechanisms for conflict resolution.

Presidents that Led from the Center

George Washington (enlightenment)*

Abraham Lincoln (flexibility)*

Theodore Roosevelt (romantic nationalism)*

Franklin Roosevelt (experimentation)*

Harry S. Truman (bipartisanship)*

Dwight Eisenhower (consensus building)*

John Kennedy (principled malleability)*

Ronald Reagan (muscular moderation)*

*=the political characteristic used to make them successful centrists.

PSC 201, Week 13

Serow (ed) readings, Unit 7

James Q. Wilson, "Bureaucracy"

Notes by Sean Kent, 11/16/2017 10:31

He talked about how there are private businesses that are more productive than public bureaucracies. Some problems are accountability, getting some agencies to follow through with their promises. Equity, treating everyone the same. They had to let everyone that are different races try to apply for the job. Responsiveness, the reaction to people who are special needs and depending on the circumstances for particular people. The problem of efficiency, to obtain the greatest goals. Politics can process easily enforce compliance with constraints than actually attain the goal. The efficiency ratio of valued resources used to value outputs. Smaller the ration the better the product will be. Problem of fiscal integrity, making sure that the public funds are spent on the public purposes. Everyone wants the government to treat everyone the same, but how can they if we keep giving them problem after problems. They will never be able to get anything done.

PSC 207, Week 7

Miller & Walling (ed) readings, Unit 5

Issue 5, "Do bureaucrats have more influence on public policy than other branches of government do?"

Notes by Jonashua Montgomery, 10/10/2017 01:04

As a nation, we've been left to our own devices to figure out the appropriate or right roles for bureaucracy and public administration. Each branch of government has some type of governing power or control, but we continue to weave around by using trial and error. The lines of power are there, but how thick the line is unclear.

All levels of government need to be prepared to respond to disasters.

-speculations of a decline in preparedness within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) caused a drain in the actual implementation process for FEMA.

-FEMA professionals were at a decline during the catastrophic event of Hurricane Katrina, which led to a major impact on federal response operations. In other words, there was a lack of funding and the well known "FEMA brain drain" (the loss of top personnel on FEMA's executive teams)

-The decline in readiness plus the decline of appropriate staffing created an ineffective response concerning Hurricane Katrina

A large-scale event such as Hurricane Katrina should not, in theory, put professionals/trained response team individuals in a bind. Programs such as FEMA should be well prepared, fully funded, highly trained, and those individuals within the organization should be well acquainted with their peers in case of such disaster.

PSC 207, Week 8

Miller & Walling (ed) readings, Unit 9

Paul Verkuil, "Why privatization of government functions threatens democracy and what we can do about it"

Notes by Quintez Pearson, 10/12/2017 10:12

Verkuil argues that privatization has the potential to damage government effectiveness and employee morale. He appeals to constitutional and statutory limits to privatization.

Begins his argument by stating that the Marquis and Reprisal Clause may be the only thing in the Constitution supporting private contractors, but even if it was revived it would support his argument due to the fact that it requires Congress to initiate privatizing actions.

He states that great care is put into who our trusted public officials are, and how they swear oaths to uphold the Constitution.

Most privatization decisions are initiated by the Executive Branch, since it forms the administration.

Agencies hire contractors and are also the heart of our administration. Verkuil argues that the use of contractors for their expertise and where they provide services is positive, but resorting to contractors jeopardizes the affective need of government.

Verkuil furthers his argument by stating that Congress has the most to lose by the excessive use of contractors because contractor's work is often outside the usual channels of review.

Verkuil closes his argument by saying that contractors displacing functions normally performed by government officials who have significant authority can be a danger to the republic, and that he also wants to prevent unprecedented delegations of power to the private sector.

PSC 207, Week 8

Miller Walling (ed) readings, Unit 8

Julia Beckett, "The "Government Should be Run Like a Business" Mantra: YES "

Notes by Jada Howard , 10/10/2017 01:59

When discussing government being ran like a business Julia Beckett focuses on three forms of business - the soul proprietor

- the partnership

- the corporation

Beckett feels as though the government should be ran like a business mythology. Concepts are substituted for example I want to replace a citizen and customer replace his client And governments are urged to be entrepreneurial and engage in partnerships. Some associate this with the widespread enduring new public management political reforms.

The mantra or phrase "Government should run like business" has entered the study of public administration theory and practice this academic movement is a broader approach to government based in part on a rejection of public administration and beer Cressy and in part of finding better methods to manage practical problems of government. The public management movement aspires to making a difference in public affairs.countries have instituted new public management reforms and techniques as a global revolution in public management.

The purpose of the mantra in the progressive era was to increase community political action by encouraging citizens to consider themselves active owners of the municipal corporation.

It has been stated that government should be run like a business it is just a metaphor but Beckett feels as though metaphors are a sensual to understanding but also can lead to misunderstandings.

The approach of administration as the business of government deals More with business being an activity of organizing resources in order to produce and distribute goods and services of society the operational commonality between government and business is a foundation of organization theory government is different from business because it is the public's business.

Therefore making business and government on comparable in a way. But this does not mean the government can't take certain characteristics used in business and implement them as a beneficiary to help the government succeed in a more organized fashion.

Since the government is the publics business this implements public choice.

Public choice applies business ideas of exchange and self interest to the government.

Business say since the government is the publics business this implements public choice.

Public choice applies business ideas of exchange and self interest to the government.

Businesses raise capital as investments with expected profitable returns and government raise revenues through taxing powers to pursue activities for the public

good. These revenue categories of business exchange and sales are equated with government revenue from fees for services.

Efficiency in business is focused on maximizing profits or the bottom line and efficiency in government has focused on minimizing cost.

But like maybe habits the government adopted the viewpoint that business competition in the market is the basis of comparison between government and business.

Competition is viewed as a catalyst for business.

Customers are better served by competition.

Innovations and improvements and services techniques and products come from competition.

In this viewpoint competition is a casual agent for progress government should compete like successful businesses and reap similar rewards.

The need to change and improve government performance and results have been considered essential.

To achieve the change in performance and results the comparison again is government and business. Models and ideas for the new public management have come from Business and business literature.

Government uses business practices and techniques to improve their service to the public. The new public management on enterprise economics which considers commercialism competition and risk-taking as beneficial.

This viewpoint reflects the idea that the government should compete or get out-of-the-way.

One writer suggest that government administrators should just ignore the rules and laws that constrain them. The new public management literature has gathered serious attention important criticism. The nations federal state and local public service is in deep trouble. Many government agencies cannot attract and retain first right executive managers and line staff. Most do not operate in a way that inspires public confidence. The new public management brings in different business ideas and practices then the classic comparisons in addition to suggesting management techniques additional business forms entrepreneurs and partners are a part of the discussion. The public management literature also rises tensions about business. Beckett feels as though meaning of the government and business comparisons are lacking consideration of either what business is and in differentiating forms of business entities. Business is expected to be so interested and self-supporting. Business is expected to take chances and bear the risk and rewards. business is expected to keep secrets all of which the government cannot do. Discussions of government may address the responsibilities of the executive and the management but these positions go beyond the point of considering the public. In the end back it feels as though business is an allegory. It is not real and it does not have to be Real. When government is compared to mythic business it pales or becomes vague. Although we have our myths, Beckett feels as though we need them to separate the ideal from the real. Beckett lastly states government can certainly learn from some business practices and procedures but caution and care are

essential in comparing business and government we should be selective in our choices and clear on our concepts.

PSC 207, Week 9

Miller & Walling (ed) readings, Unit 7

David Lewis, "Do bureaucrats need to be politically neutral to be effective? YES. Testing Pendleton's Premise: Do Political Appointees Make Worse Bureaucrats?"

Notes by Sydney Baumgartner, 10/19/2017 12:56

Intro: Begins with a debate if appointees are better at government jobs instead of careerists (bureaucrats). There have been multiple studies with appointees and how efficient they are at the job, and there are multiple reasons why this has become a public question:

An increase of political appointees in not just the US but foreign countries

Different strategies for political control hurt agency performance

When preferences between agencies/legislature diverges, legislatures reduce agency discretion by writing more specific statutes, strengthen administrative procedures and monitoring it more carefully

Efforts to restrict discretion can reduce incentives for bureaucrats to develop and use expertise

Studying the relationship between appointees and performance can test whether another means of securing responsiveness also diminishes performance. There is no consensus about whether appointees or careerists are best for federal management

Competing Views About Appointees and Management Performance

Two waves of thought:

A long tradition argues that political appointees drawn from outside the civil service bring needed energy and responsiveness to federal management

Low wages and lack of pay for performance salary in the public sector pushes the best workers into the private sector

Appointees drawn from the private sector have higher levels of human capital than their careerist counterparts

Difference in perspective in the policy world 'generalist v. specialist (A - C)

Difference in political stakeholders 'superior v. inferior

Appointees are less likely to be specialist and be more likely to lean towards to preference of elected stakeholders and better able to do the work needed for proper program implementation.

A position of praise for the management advantages of career politicians

Career execs have subject area expertise, public management skills and longer tenure, which all improve management

Reduces info asymmetries between the manager and staff

Careerists more likely to have public management expertise

Testing Competing Views

Difficult to test these different views:

Hard to define good performance objectively and in a manner acceptable to different stakeholders

Hard to compare executives and agencies since agencies have different mandates, operating environments and constraints

Using the PART for Evaluating Management Performance

The Bush Administration established the PART system to provide a way to overcome substantial difficulties with measuring performance

Itâ€™s a grading scheme used by the Office of Management and Budget to evaluate the performance of federal programs numerically.

Developed through the Federal Advisory Commission Act and the Presidentâ€™s Management Council, the National Academy of Public Administration and other parties from Congress

Description:

4 categories of performance get â€œgradesâ€ from 0-100 based on a series of 25-30

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PART Scores
Difference definitions of good management make it to where PART doesnâ€™t measure all aspects of them

Irregularities in the way PART is applied across programs due to differences in legal, budgetary and resource constraints

Biased grades

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Problems with PART Scores

Difference definitions of good management make it to where PART doesnâ€™t measure all aspects of them

Irregularities in the way PART is applied across programs due to differences in legal, budgetary and resource constraints

Biased grades

PSC 209, Week 2

Foreign Policy Association (ed) readings, Unit 1

Andrew Moravcsik, "Issue #1: The future of Europe: coping with crisis"

Notes by Ashley and John Burke and Buford , 10/11/2018 22:39

Europe's military might

The EU is responsible for 12.2% of the world's military power

Europe's arsenals of military are more sophisticated than China's

Arsenal includes military aircrafts, ships, and nuclear weapons

The existence of 28 separate and compartmentalized national defense markets rather than one centralized EU institution is creating needless multiplication in the cost of maintaining and operating military forces

Europe behaves much like a unified superpower and they consistently project military force transcontinentally

Europe's economic power

Europe's nominal GDP remains nearly 50% larger than that of the China and nearly 13 times larger than that of Russia

EU is the world's largest trading bloc and investor

Europe gives about \$9 billion in annual aid and they have also backed its aid with trade liberalization

Europe's soft power

The ideal of Europe has spread far beyond the EU due to their support for international law, organization, and civil society which is unmatched anywhere else

The Myth of Europe's democratic deficit

Many attribute problems in politics to the "democratic deficit", which to some means that the EU is democratically illegitimate because it lacks a directly elected executive, parliamentary sovereignty, transnational public deliberation, and other institutions to assure the electoral accountability characteristic of most advanced industrial democracies

This idea is largely a myth, the EU is quite accountable to national voters

When asked, the absolute majority of the public said they believe that the EU can be described as democratic

Pessimists turn about Europe turn to the British vote for Brexit and see that as a model for efforts to dismantle the EU but these are just critics

These criticisms seem to be coming from the dissatisfaction with Europe's concrete policies and when polled Europeans report economic growth and immigration to be the most salient political concern and now Europe faces crisis in both areas

58% of refugees were men (out of 500 thousand) and the vast majority are fleeing areas of war in 2015. In 2016, the number grew to 1.3 million, with the a sizeable minority taking asylum in Germany. A majority arrive by the sea.

Eastern European nations were the main fighting force against the acceptance of refugees with the rise of nationalism in Poland and Hungary.

One of the top concerns for refugees is economic participation. Refugees flow from nation to nation for economic opportunity, jobs, and family links.

The EU has tried to relocate the refugees to nations elsewhere in Europe, with 4 nations refusing acceptance of this plan.

Slow economic development after the establishment of the Euro. Which has gotten worse since the housing market crash of 2008. This economic downturn led to the rise of nationalism in Europe.

The nations of Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Ireland have been unwise with inflating the Euro and destroying the trust in the Euro Monetary system.

The Solution to solving the debt of these nations would be austerity, however this is controversial in the sovereignty of the nations and its citizens, and controversial in getting a lower paycheck to support their already broken economies.

The lack of action against the violating states is an example of the primitive nature of International Law.

The EU is still a strong union, but internal fractures from exterior issues have weakened the trust in the EU.

While the EU is strong in its small scale operations, it is feeling tension with how it has attempted to "over reach its boundaries" as right wing radicals would evaluate.

Europe will have to relieve tensions between Germany and its indebted comrades and between the transnationalism and the nationalists.

PSC 209, Week 4

Foreign Policy Association (ed) readings, Unit 5

Omer Taspinar, "Turkey: A Partner in Crisis"

Notes by Kirakia Fefelov, 10/12/2018 09:24

The Road To Authoritarianism

- When Erdogan came into power in 2002 things were good for Turkey the economy got better, the UN considered negotiating with them, and they were able to help there people more
- That all change in 2013 when Gezi movement happened
- It started out as a group of young environmentalist didn't want a new mall built where a park was it turned into much more when the police brutally evicted them
- This sparked mass social movements that were already brewing because of Erdogan's growing authoritarianism over Turkey
- He curbed freedom of expression and information, self-censorship in the media and regulations limiting the sale of alcoholic beverages
- Erdogan said that American neoconservatives, Israel, the U.S. news outlet CNN and even Germany were foreign agitators

A Turning Point With The U.S.

- The U.S. and the UN are trying to figure out how to stop Turkey's downward spiral
 - The UN lost its most vocal advocate for Turkey to become a UN member when the UK left
 - The U.S. and Turkey's partnership is growing further apart because of the U.S. support for Kurdish fighters in Syria as well as Turkey's rapprochement with Russia and its growing authoritarianism and anti-Americanism
-

PSC 209, Week 8

Foreign Policy Association (ed) readings, Unit 4

Lawrence G. Potter, "Saudi Arabia in transition"

Notes by Addison Fuller, 10/12/2018 09:53

Transition in Power: (Taylor)

- King Salman ascended to the throne in 2015 following his brothers death.
- New leadership extends to the Deputy Crown Prince (Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud) and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Nayef who also serves as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.
- The new leadership has taken an aggressive foreign policy stance especially in regards to Iran. The new regime is also considered brash and doesn't hesitate to question/call out the US and its other allies.
- Due to the considerable drop in oil prices Saudi Arabia has experienced an economic crisis and a growth in its budget deficit.
- To counter the economic issues the Saudi government has announced a plan for major domestic reforms called "Saudi Vision 2030" which look to rewrite the governmental/cultural norms in Saudi Arabia.

Religion in Saudi: (Taylor)

- As a whole Saudi Arabia is known for the creation, being the main practitioner and exportation of Wahhabi Islam. The royal family is closely connected to the Wahhabi scholars. The legitimacy of the regime is well established and religiously justified.
- Many around the globe criticize Saudi Arabia for its exportation of Wahhabi Islam as it has been linked to jihad and subsequently terrorism.
- However, due to their relations with the Western world many terror groups target Saudi Arabia for being "puppets" of the West and forgoing true Islamic nature.
- Currently Islamic opposition is a security threat in Saudi Arabia but it is not considered a threat to the regimes stability. The Saudis mainly fear the return of citizens/terrorists who went off to fight in the regions surrounding conflicts.

The Urgency of Reform: (Addison)

- Political decisions are traditionally made by the consensus of the small family elite and from the Sunni Ulama; there is also the Shura Council that provides some input
- Saudi Arabia is experiencing a "youth bulge" and therefore needs to create more jobs
- Related to jobs there is a preference on the part of Saudi nationals to work in the public sector because of the benefits ensured to them (higher wages, shorter work days, longer holidays, and the probability that they will not be fired)
- Created a sense of entitlement
- Saudi youth are addicted to social media, the government has responded with the Vision 2030 plan (monitoring and keeping youth accountable)
- Women cannot leave their house, get a passport, marry, travel, or gain a higher education without the permission of a male guardian

- Women make up 60% of university students, but there are few jobs available upon graduation
- Since 2017 when GD 2017 was released women have been granted the right to drive
- In 2013 30 women were appointed to the Shura Council and in 2015 women were allowed to vote and run for offices in municipal elections
- Salman has indicated he wants women to become more productive in the economy
- Saudi has a record of harsh sentences and beheadings
- Social networking has brought attention to the human rights violations
- CURRENT EVENT: Saudi dissident journalist murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul
- Saudi Vision 2030 Plan is a major set of reforms that aim to reduce government subsidies, cut dependency on oil, and empower the private sector

A New Activism: (Will)

- Iraq War had many harmful effects, the highest to Saudi Arabia being the rise in sectarian discourse and Shiâ€™ism
- Threatened Sunni governments
- Shiâ€™a community was divided and not united
- Many clerics competing for leadership
- Greatest concern for U.S. is the export of Wahhabi ideology
- Indirectly promoted jihadism
- Email sent by Hillary Clinton revealed donors in Saudi Arabia supported terrorist groups
- Saudiâ€™s helped build mosques all over including 16 in the U.S.
- They still reject that their religion has radicalized foreign Muslims
- The government claims to have fired the more radical imams
- Saudi government is cracking down on internet recruiting of terrorist groups as well

U.S.-Saudi Relations (Addison)

- Post WWII, Saudi Arabia agreed to supply the world with oil in exchange for the US providing security
 - Today we have seen the relationship deteriorating quickly
 - The top US priority in the Saudi region is neutralizing militant groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS
-

PSC 209, Week 8

Foreign Policy Association (ed) readings, Unit 8

Lawrence G. Potter, "Saudi Foreign Policy: a new activism "

Notes by Andy Ysalgue, 10/9/2017 09:40

A new activism:

- . The new more muscular foreign policy is inspired by the regional turmoil and a fear that the Riyadh can no longer rely on the U.S. for protection
- . Since the overthrow of Saddam, Iraq has no longer been a counterweight to Iran, and for the first time, that country's government has been run by Shi'a
- . Iranian support of Shi'a militias now play a significant role in Iraqi politics.

The rise of sectarian politics:

- . In December 2004, King Abdullah of Jordan warned that if new Iraqi government fell under Iranian influence, a " crescent " of Shi'a movements would result, threatening Sunni government
- . This fear is especially salient in Saudi and Bahrain, which have substantial populations that they fear Iran will manipulate.
- . Many analysts conclude, however, that fears of a rising " Shi'a crescent " are misplaced. For one thing, the Shi'a community is not unified but divided, with many clerics competing for leadership

War of worlds:

- . In September, the Iranian foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, wrote an op-ed in the New York Times entitled " Let us Rid the World of Wahhabism " in which he blamed the ideology for instigating terrorism throughout the middle east
- . The Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said that " Saudi rulers' refusal to offer a simple verbal apology (for the Hajj incident) was indicative of their ultimate impudence and shamelessness " He went on " the stampede demonstrated that this government is not qualified to manage the Two Holy Mosques".

Sponsors of global jihadism

- . The greatest concern of the U.S., and the hardest one for Saudis to refute, is that the state's vigorous export of Wahhabi ideology has served as the rationale for jihadist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS
- . Since the time of King Faisal, Riyadh has vigorously promoted Islam abroad, always in the Wahhabi version
- . Although considerable evidence exists about ISIS adopting Saudi textbooks, the Saudis have rejected accusations that their religion has radicalized foreign Muslims and negatively impacted the moderate, tolerant Islam that exist in many countries, such as Indonesia.

PSC 209, Week 8

Foreign Policy Association (ed) readings, Unit 4

Lawrence G. Potter , “Saudi Arabia in transition ”

Notes by Taylor Chestnutt, 10/12/2018 09:45

King Salman ascended to the throne in 2015 following his brothers death.

New leadership extends to the Deputy Crown Prince (Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud) and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Nayef who also serves as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

The new leadership has taken a aggressive foreign policy stance especially in regards to Iran. The new regime is also considered brash and doesn't hesitate to question/call out the US and its other allies.

Due to the considerable drop in oil prices Saudi Arabia has experienced an economic crisis and a growth in its budget deficit.

To counter the economic issues the Saudi government has announced a plan for major domestic reforms called “Saudi Vision 2030” which look to rewrite the governmental/cultural norms in Saudi Arabia.

As a whole Saudi Arabia is known for the creation, being the main practitioner and exportation of Wahhabi Islam. The royal family is closely connected to the Wahhabi scholars. The legitimacy of the regime is well established and religiously justified.

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However, due to their relations with the Western world many terror groups target Saudi Arabia for being “puppets” of the West and forgoing true Islamic nature.

Currently Islamic opposition is a security threat in Saudi Arabia but it is not considered a threat to the regimes stability. The Saudis mainly fear the return of citizens/terrorists who went off to fight in the regions surrounding conflicts.

Political decisions are traditionally made by the consensus of the small family elite and from the Sunni Ulama; there is also the Shura Council that provides some input Saudi Arabia is experiencing a “youth bulge” and therefore needs to create more jobs

Related to jobs there is a preference on the part of Saudi nationals to work in the public sector because of the benefits ensured to them (higher wages, shorter work days, longer holidays, and the probability that they will not be fired)

Created a sense of entitlement

Saudi youth are addicted to social media, the government has responded with the Vision 2030 plan (monitoring and keeping youth accountable)

Women cannot leave their house, get a passport, marry, travel, or gain a higher education without the permission of a male guardian

Women make up 60% of university students, but there are few jobs available

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Iraq War had many harmful effects, the highest to Saudi Arabia being the rise in
sectarian discourse and Shiâ€™ism
Threatened Sunni governments
Shiâ€™a community was divided and not united
Many clerics competing for leadership
Greatest concern for U.S. is the export of Wahhabi ideology
Indirectly promoted jihadism
Email sent by Hillary Clinton revealed donors in Saudi Arabia supported terrorist groups
Saudiâ€™s helped build mosques all over including 16 in the U.S.
They still reject that their religion has radicalized foreign Muslims
The government claims to have fired the more radical imams
Saudi government is cracking down on internet recruiting of terrorist groups as well

Post WWII, Saudi Arabia agreed to supply the world with oil in exchange for the US
providing security
Today we have seen the relationship deteriorating quickly
The top US priority in the Saudi region is neutralizing militant groups like al-Qaeda and
ISIS

PSC 209, Week 8

Foreign Policy Association (ed) readings, Unit 2018

Omer Taspinar, "Turkey's Evolution Under Erdogan"

Notes by Ziion Sibley, 10/12/2018 09:22

Erdogan was in politics from a young age as he started to move up in the ranks he got sent to jail for "inciting religious violence" from reading a poem with Islamist undertones

After going to jail he adopted a pro-EU vision based on conservative democracy

When he became prime minister he help change the AKP (social conservative political party) into more of a pro-market and pro-western conservative democratic party

The military kept an eye on Erdogan and Gulen because they thought they had hidden Islamic agendas that they were hiding

Gulen's movement was invested in education, interfaith dialogue, the media and private economic enterprise

He held a secret sermon where he encouraged a group of his followers to go into political careers till the time was "ripe".

When the military found out about this plan Gulen fled in 1999 to Pennsylvania and has been in the U.S. ever since

PSC 209, Week 8

Foreign Policy Association 2017 (ed) readings, Unit 1

Andrew Moravcsik, "The future of Europe: coping with crisis"

Notes by John Buford, 10/11/2018 20:27

58% of refugees were men (out of 500 thousand) and the vast majority are fleeing areas of war in 2015. In 2016, the number grew to 1.3 million, with the a sizeable minority taking asylum in Germany. A majority arrive by the sea.

Eastern European nations were the main fighting force against the acceptance of refugees with the rise of nationalism in Poland and Hungary.

One of the top concerns for refugees is economic participation. Refugees flow from nation to nation for economic opportunity, jobs, and family links.

The EU has tried to relocate the refugees to nations elsewhere in Europe, with 4 nations refusing acceptance of this plan.

Slow economic development after the establishment of the Euro. Which has gotten worse since the housing market crash of 2008. This economic downturn lead to the rise of nationalism in Europe.

The nations of Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Ireland have been unwise with inflating the Euro and destroying the trust in the Euro Monetary system.

The Solution to solving the debt of these nations would be austerity, however this is controversial in the sovereignty of the nations and its citizens, and controversial in getting a lower paycheck to support their already broken economies.

The lack of action against the violating states is an example of the primitive nature of International Law.

The EU handles slow decisions, most are dull and lack public interest. For reference it is used in UKIP criticism of the EU that there are more words and pages regarding the importation of lettuce than there is words in the US Constitution.

The EUs main tenant is prosperity within Europe as opposed to enforcing risky investments, like with the Euro.

PSC 209, Week 9

Foreign Policy Association, ed. (ed) readings, Unit 1

David M Lampton , "Russia's foreign policy"

Notes by Ashley Burke , 10/15/2018 14:12

- Russia's first post-soviet president, Boris Yeltsin, believed that Russia was a natural ally of the leading market democracies, above all the US
- a series of issues with foreign policy and domestic challenges that was in the way
- These included the economic consequences of the collapse of the Soviet economy, the absence of borders throughout Moscow's new western and southern borderlands, and the outbreak of ethnic tensions and conflicts through Russia's historical borderlands
- They also needed to establish the best possible relations with the US and US allies, but also secure its varied and pressing interests along the border regions
- Over time, Russian leaders came to the reluctant conclusion that partnership with the West was unlikely and maybe even undesirable
- One factor driving this idea of not wanting to partner with the West anymore was the transfer from a command to a market economy
- The US supported and backed Yeltsin through the Russian opposition and claimed to see him as the only alternative to a communist backlash but despite the support Russia's relationship still seemed fraught
- NATO 1999 bombing of Yugoslavia during the Kosovo war triggered many of Russia's liberal democrats to feel that the US had betrayed them domestically and it made it impossible in Russian politics for them to argue a Pro-US position

-Below is a list of core assumptions created about foreign policy about the US, NATO, and the West, these assumptions were made before Putin

- Russia's aspirations to be accepted as a great international power has to be on the basis of their military and economic power not on common ideals with the Western world
- US foreign policy is motivated by desire to maximize power and influence, both absolutely and relatively, at Russia's expense is need be
- Natural resources (oil and natural gas) will remain the foundation of Russia's domestic and foreign policies for the indefinite future
- Even though they have rejected the possibility of political-integration with the western world they would still like to see profitable relationships with it
- Russia wants profitable relations with the Western world and Eurasia but if it is forced to choose, it will choose the latter
- These assumptions reflect above all the failure of the country's liberal experiment and the challenge that US power poses for international position

-Putin has brought a very personal perspective to the main argument of Russian foreign policy

--Dangers of the vacuum of power--such vacuums will eventually be filled and if not by your side then by your enemy

--Fear of over extension-- Russia's relative weakness in the contemporary international system

-Believes great care must be taken to not exhaust the country's limited power resources

-Chechnya

--Putin later abandoned efforts to rule there directly and instead placed someone there

In this way the economic and political costs to Russia that would be incurred by direct administration have so far been greatly reduced

-Ukraine

--An international agreement meant to establish ceasefire collapsed overnight and triggered Putin's seizure of the Crimean peninsula

Deadly uprising broke out, with the clear support of Russian-sponsored armed forces but Putin balked at escalating to all out direct military intervention

Putin filled an emerging power vacuum, while at the same time minimizing the risks of over extension

PSC 215, Week 5

Bullock and Rozell (ed) readings, Unit 2

Bullock and Rozell, "African Americans' Role in Southern Politics"

Notes by John Vise, 2/14/2018 15:00

How many of Keys' chapters discuss African American politics? Zero. How many of Key's chapter's are devoted to discussing whites' impediments to Black voting? Five

Which state had increased black voter turnout post World War II, earlier than all the others? Georgia. What were the consequences of the Voting Rights Act? (V.R.A.) By 1970, two-thirds of the South's eligible Black population appeared on registration rolls.

What were the effects of the redistricting revolution? Now, Blacks cast the majority of votes for the Democratic Party. Was gerrymandering districts to create minority representatives held constitutional? Yes

How have white evangelicals and black voters reacted to each other? White evangelicals and black voters have not always worked well together because they opposed many of each other's plans. How has voter suppression resumed following the court case of Shelby County v. Holder? This court case eliminated federal supervision over changes in election laws in section five jurisdictions. Voter suppression has resumed with the voting requirement of a state-issued photo I.D.

In future, will Southern Republican voters reach out for Latino and black voters -- or will they fight to suppress those votes and risk antagonizing those increasing minorities who do vote? In the future, Southern Republican voters will probably at least try and reach out to black and Latino voters, because the Republicans want to try to prevent any negative 'blowback' against their own reputations and to ultimately appeal to and convince most Blacks and Latinos that they are not intentionally excluding them.

PSC 302, Week 7

Michael Curtis (ed) readings, Unit 12

Trotsky, "The Revolution Betrayed"

Notes by Koby Townsend, 10/20/2018 20:15

Soviet Bureaucracy and Bonapartism

☪ The Bureaucracy is the ~privileged officials and commanders of a standing army™. Represents a special kind of compulsion which the masses cannot or do not wish to exercise, and which is directed against the masses themselves.

☪ The present Soviet society, under Stalin, cannot get along without a State, nor even ~within limits ~without a bureaucracy.

☪ The basis of bureaucratic rule is the poverty of society in objects of consumption, with the resulting struggle of each against all.

☪ Such is the starting-point of the power of the Soviet Bureaucracy. It ~knows™ who is to get something and who must wait.

☪ The Soviet bureaucracy, like no other regime has achieved such a degree of independence from the dominating class. In bourgeois society the bureaucracy represents the interests of a possessing and educated class, which has at its disposable innumerable means of everyday control over its administration of affairs.

☪ The Soviet bureaucracy has expropriated the proletariat politically in order by methods of its own to defend the social conquests.

☪ The means of production belong to the State. But the State, so to speak, ~belongs™ to the bureaucracy.

☪ But besides being completely inadequate in itself, such a definition is capable of producing the mistaken idea that from the present Soviet regime only a transition to socialism is possible.

☪ The Soviet Union is a contradictory society half-way between capitalism and socialism.

a. On the road to capitalism the counter-revolution would have to break the resistance of the workers.

b. On the road to socialism the workers would have to overthrow the bureaucracy.

☪ The Soviet society is not harmonious.

☪ The State support of the kulak (1923-8) contained a mortal danger for the socialist future.

☪ The progressive role of the Soviet bureaucracy coincides with the period devoted to introducing into the Soviet Union the most important elements of capitalist technique.

☪ Behind the question of quality stands a more complicated and grandiose problem which may be compromised in the concept of independent, technical, and cultural creation.

â€¢ The ancient philosopher said that strife is the father of all things. No new values can be created where a free conflict of ideas is impossible.

â€¢ Soviet democracy is not the demand of an abstract policy, still less an abstract moral. It has become a life-and death need of the country.

â€¢ Bonapartism, enters the scene in those moments of history when the sharp struggle of two camps raises the State power, so to speak, above the nation and guarantees it, in appearance, a complete independence of classes â€” in reality, only the freedom necessary for a defense of the privileged. The Stalin regime, rising above a politically atomized society, resting upon a police and officersâ€™ corps, and allowing of no control whatever, is obviously a variation of Bonapartism â€” a Bonapartism of a new type not before seen in history.

â€¢ The democratic ritual of Bonapartism is the plebiscite. From time to time the question is presented to the citizens: for or against the leader? And the voter feels the barrel of a revolver between his shoulders.

â€¢ The new Soviet constitution which establishes Bonapartism on a plebiscite basis is the veritable crown of the system.

â€¢ We thus arrive at the conclusion, unexpected at first glance, but in reality, inevitable, that the crushing of Soviet democracy by an all-powerful bureaucracy and the extermination of bourgeois democracy by fascism were produced by one and the same cause: the dilatoriness of the world proletariat in solving the problems set for it by history. Stalinism and fascism, in spite of a deep difference in social foundations, are symmetrical phenomena.

PSC 302, Week 8

Anon (ed) readings, Unit 12

N/A, "Maastricht Treaty"

Notes by Justala; Jada Simpson and Howard, 10/13/2018 14:32

The Maastricht Treaty, which was formally called the Treaty on European Union, was an international agreement that was approved by the governmental heads within the European Community. The treaty was approved in December of 1991, signed in February of 1992, and put into action in November of 1993.

The Maastricht Treaty helped to reform the structure of the European Community by creating a new political unit, the European Union. Additionally, the treaty led to the creation of a monetary union. The treaty, also, led to the expansion of foreign, security, environmental, policing, and social policy.

PSC 302, Week 8

Curtis (ed) readings, Unit N/A

Vladimir Lenin, "What Is to Be Done?"

Notes by Justala; Darius Simpson and Pittman, 10/13/2018 14:50

Lenin uplifted a militaristic approach to securing Social-Democratic policy. It was his belief that, if the proletariat attempted to fix their social issues themselves, they would only establish trade unions. Thus, causing further exploitation by the bourgeoisie. He established three main principles for individuals who were participating in this movement: 1) strict secrecy, 2) strict selection of members, and 3) training of professional revolutionists.

The year 1917 was an official denouncement of the state and birth of the revolution. Lenin outlines several characteristics of the state and revolution. He saw the state of the product of the suppression of the proletariat by the bourgeoisie and the constant friction that present between classes. The birth of the Social-Democrats came out of this suppression. Social-Democrats, to Lenin, should be a "tribune of the people" allowing them to "react to every [potential] manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it takes place, no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects". For Lenin, the glue that holds all organizations is the stability of its leaders.

PSC 302, Week 9

CIA World Fact Book (ed) readings, Unit

UK, "Select rankings by population, economy, geography, and political factors"

Notes by Morgan Herfindahl, 10/20/2018 15:33

Economy: The UK is the third largest economy in the world. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil resources, but its oil and natural gas reserves are declining; the UK has been a net importer of energy since 2005. The UK economy has begun to slow since the referendum vote to leave the EU in June 2016. A continuing depreciation of the British pound has increased consumer and producer prices, weighing on consumer spending without spurring a meaningful increase in exports. The UK is expected to officially leave the EU by the end of March 2019.

Geography: The UK is made up of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, located in Western Europe. The area of the UK is approximately 243,610 sq km; 241,930 sq km of land and 1,680 sq km of water. In comparison, that is TWICE the size of Pennsylvania and slightly smaller than Oregon. The UK has mostly rugged hills and low mountains, and has a temperate climate with more than ½ of its days having overcast skies. 71% of the land is used for agriculture, 11.9% of the land is covered by forest, and the remaining 17.1% is used for other various purposes. Some natural hazards are winter windstorms and flooding.

Continuing

PSC 305, Week 1

Article (ed) readings, Unit

Michael Wolff, "You Can't Make This Shit Up": My Insane Year Inside The Trump White House"

Notes by Georgianna Clemmons, 3/5/2018 12:24

Getting Inside

-Wolff states that his observation in the White House was gained by chance - due to the unorganized staff and the inability to understand President Trump

Nepotism

- Trump surrounded himself with people he trusted, basically the only ones he truly trusts are family members
- Eric Trump's wife, Lara commented that they barely saw him before running for office
- Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner were given senior positions, even though very outspoken Democrats
- Ivanka and Jared played a key role in removing Kellyanne Conway from speaking to news media because she looked idiotic

Weakness

- Though quick to defend Pres. Trump at first, staff began commenting on his ability to lead and properly do the job
- Steve Bannon even commented on how he was telling Pres. Trump what to do and making all the calls
- Staff wondered why they were working for this person, but felt it was their patriotic duty
- Staff afraid to question him because of his reaction
- President Trump constantly making phone calls complaining to friends about loyalty, but complained about leaks
- Ivanka and Jared have been rumored to have made big calls on decisions in the White House and run the show.

"You're Fired"

- March 30, 2017 - Katie Walsh (Deputy Chief of Staff)
- Steve Bannon in late Spring
- Reince Priebus (Chief of Staff)
- Anthony Scaramucci (Chief of Staff) for 11 days

-By end of summer Michael Flynn, Sean Spicer were out of the White House
-According to Wolff 100% of staff believed Pres. Trump was incapable of doing his job as President

PSC 305, Week 4

Nivola (ed) readings, Unit

Alexander Hamilton, "Federalist No. 69" (2nd Half)

Notes by Georgianna Clemmons, 3/5/2018 12:29

Second Half

- The President of the United States has the power to make treaties as long as 2/3 of the Senate agrees.
 - Receives Heads of State and Diplomats, such as Ambassadors and Public Ministers
 - The President nominates ambassadors, public ministers, judges, and officers of the US establish by law, and whose appointments are not laid out in the Constitution.
 - Four year term is laid out for POTUS
 - Hamilton compares the office of the President to that of the King of Great Britain
 - Points out that the King has absolute power without the accountability (otherwise known as checks and balances) of different branches.
 - President has no spiritual jurisdiction, King is head of church.
 - Concludes there is no comparison between President and King.
-

PSC 305, Week 6

AP (ed) readings, Unit 1

Staff of the Associated Press, "Highlights of Trumps 2019 Budget: EPA"

Notes by Quintez Pearson, 2/14/2018 13:49

Climate change research went on the brink of being cut out as Trump released his 2019 budget.

Trump wants to slash the budget for the EPA by 1/3 it would make deep cuts to the clean up of the nations most polluted sites.

Despite the cut the White House says that they plan to "accelerate" clean up by bringing in private funds to support it.

Agent staffing would also take a hit due to these budget cuts further decreasing the amount of jobs the EPA can offer. Since Trump took office in the last year staffing for the EPA has been lower than it has since the mid 1980s

PSC 305, Week 6

AP (ed) readings, Unit 6

AP Press Staff, "Agency-by-Agency Highlights of Trump's 2019 Budget "

Notes by Cameron Compton, 2/14/2018 13:51

Created winners and losers among the 42 million seniors with drug coverage.

Provides prescription benefits to share with beneficiaries from portion of rebates by drug makers

Eliminated 5% share costs that 1 million beneficiaries with high drug bills must pay

Fewer senior will reach catastrophic coverage, while some will pay more

Budget also makes multiple cuts to Medicare payments going to hospitals. The budget calls for \$500 billion over 10 years in cuts from Medicare spending.

PSC 305, Week 6

AP (ed) readings, Unit N/A

AP, "Education"

Notes by Dixon Sterling, 2/14/2018 13:52

Trump's budget for education will be supported by those who are advocates of school choice. With this budget, he is fulfilling his campaign promise by "putting more power in the hands of parents and families" in choosing schools for their children with \$1.5 billion coming in the next year. The budget also calls for expanding magnet schools that offer specialized instruction usually focused on specific curricula. Finally, there will be a \$200 million dollar investment to STEM research in the classrooms and \$43 million spent to implement opioid abuse prevention strategies. Overall, the budget called for \$7.1 billion, a 10.5 percent decrease from 2017. That being cut is \$5.9 million in teacher preparation and aftercare programs. Last year proposals for these cuts received harsh criticism from teachers unions and educators across the country.

PSC 305, Week 6

AP (ed) readings, Unit N/A

AP Staff, "Veterans"

Notes by John Hunnicutt, 2/14/2018 13:58

In the "Veterans" section of the AP article we reviewed as a class the writers at AP focus on the Veterans Choice Health Care Program and its role in Trump's 2019 Budget.

Overall, Trump wants to allot \$8.7 billion to the Veteran's Affairs segment of the budget. This will strengthen medical care for over 9 million U.S. Veterans. The majority of the money added to the VA's budget will be pushed towards an \$11.9 billion revamp to the "Veteran's Choice" program. This program was a campaign priority for Trump and its goal is to offer Veterans more options for federally funded medical care outside of VA clinics.

This would allow Veterans to get the healthcare they need much faster in a lot of areas.

Some veterans are forced to wait weeks to receive medical care from VA clinics.

Unfortunately, delays in reaching agreements on Trump's budget will slow the implementation of some of these plans.

PSC 305, Week 6

AP (ed) readings, Unit

Associated Press, ""Agency-by-Agency Highlights of Trump's 2019 Budget""

Notes by Katrinnah Harding, 2/14/2018 13:38

"Obama Care"

Trump has made it known that one of his top priorities is to abolish the Affordable Care Act. In his 2019 budget plan, the replacement was announced to be "legislation modeled after an ill-fated GOP bill," that even nonpartisan officials have warned would "leave millions more uninsured." Additionally, his budget calls for a program of grants allowing the states to handle these newly uninsured.

PSC 305, Week 6

AP (ed) readings, Unit

Staff of Associated Press, "Agency-by-Agency Highlights of Trump's 2019 Budget - The Arts"

Notes by Ragin Berry, 2/14/2018 13:40

In Trump's budget, he calls for the shut down of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). When these organizations shut down, they will no longer be considered "core Federal responsibilities." These programs receive some bipartisan support, and they also restored funding for them in Congress in 2017. Other programs Trump is hoping to shut down include the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Small programs that receive less than \$150 million.

PSC 305, Week 6

Web (ed) readings, Unit 6

Anon, "Heritage Foundation "

Notes by Katherine Sullivan, 2/14/2018 15:03

Google Olympics

Heritage Foundation:

British type-policy think-tank.

Developing comprehensive conservative manifestos.

2/3rds Trump administration policy is coming from The Heritage Foundation's

"Mandate for Leadership."

Analysis completed by Heritage determined that 64 percent of the policy prescriptions were included in Trump's budget, implemented through regulatory guidance, or under consideration for action in accordance with The Heritage Foundation's original proposals.

The Heritage Foundation is satisfied with Trump's first year, citing his conservative Supreme court justice pick and his pro-growth tax reform.

Values are free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.

70 employees working with Trump transition team or administration.

As Reagan did in 1981, Trump is following along Heritage's plans.

Heritage officials were very involved in the following: Leaving the Paris Climate Accord, Repealing Net Neutrality, Reshaping National Monuments, Increasing Military Spending, Withdrawing from UNESCO, and reforming government agencies.

Split into two: Heritage Action (run by former Congressman), Heritage Foundation.

More right-wing than W. Bush.

America First withdrawal and budget cuts, want defense increasing, increasing spending, engaging in Keynesian spending, only usually do that in periods of recession.

PSC 305, Week 8

Michael Curtis (ed) readings, Unit

Niccolo Machiavelli, "The Prince"

Notes by Katrinnah Harding, 3/6/2018 12:58

A writing on power:

Leaders (princes) "obtain their dominions with difficulty, but retain them easily:"

> Difficult because in all things, "initiating a new order to things" is dangerous and hard to pull off.

>>The enemies of reform are extremely devoted to their cause, while defendants of change are often "lukewarm."

Pleasing the people - Staying in power:

> "In taking a state the conqueror must arrange to commit all his cruelties at once..." quickly.

> While, they should give out their good acts bit by bit, elongating and drawing more attention to them.

A leader's upbringing and its affect:

> Namely, whether they were brought up by the nobility or the populace

>> Because, in their general nature, the nobility "desires to oppress," while the populace simply "desires to avoid oppression." Thus, this impacts how they view and treat the public once in power.

The qualities of a leader:

> Since it is impossible for every good characteristic to be adopted by one man, though this would be ideal, one must choose which are essential to him in his position of power, Machiavelli states these to be Mercy, Faith, Integrity, Humanity, and Religion.

>> Although, a prince does not have to have all of these, but he must seem to have to them.

>> As long as he is not despicable or hated, he can indulge in other "vices of less scandal," and seem to be a perfectly good man.

Famously, "Is it better to be feared or loved?:"

> It is best to be both, however, if one must be chosen, being feared is better for a leader because it is a more stable emotion than love, though it is then imperative to never be hated.

> Machiavelli then lists specific ways for a leader to be feared, but not hated.

An explicitly manipulative, power-focused piece. Fascinating.

PSC 305, Week 11

Nivola (ed) readings, Unit 31

Charles O. Jones, "Separating To Govern: The American Way"

Notes by Georgianna Clemmons, 4/13/2018 11:47

“The President is not the Presidency. The Presidency is not the government.”

Split Partisan Control

- Stalemate- when one party controls most or all of the of the branches and legislation is not passed or made extremely difficult to pass.
- Jones also uses terms like, “deadlock” and “gridlock” to describe the state of the legislative branch when no laws are passed.
- Jones states that the party in control needs to take responsibility for governing in order to stop stalemate.

Separated Institutions For Competing

- Jones states that “elections do not automatically produce unity”
- A president elected with majority opposition or majority control in their party will always be faced with elections in the Senate and House
- It is very important for presidents and congressional party leaders to create cross party strategies

Many Presidencies

- There can be many presidencies in one President, especially if a President is re-elected
- Policy can change between terms
- Discusses Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Reagan

Stability In Congress

- Frequent elections and different term limits do not necessarily create instability in Congress.
- It may, however, make it more challenging for President because as Jones describes them, the House and Senate are very institutionalized and professional with a well articulated committee structure and elaborate staff

Policy Eras

- Discusses Reagan and H. Bush policy
- Reagan thought government was the problem, not the solution, so installed a contradictive agenda
- H. Bush inherited issues from the Reagan presidency, so it was clear contradictive agenda did not help

President Clinton And The Separated System And New Congress

- Jones describes President Clinton as the weakest of the Presidents in this century due to his political capital when entering office

-He needed to take full advantage of his constitutional status in the separated system in
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-Member of the house is a congressman first, com

PSC 305, Week 13

Nivola (ed) readings, Unit 27

Richard Fenno, "Congressmen in Committees"

Notes by Georgianna Clemmons, 4/13/2018 11:53

Introduction

- Member of the house is a congressman first, committee member second
- There are three basic goals when picking a committee: re-election, influence in the House and public policy
- Each congressman has their own mix of priorities and intensities

Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee

- committee for power, prestige and importance
- This committee most important to those members who valued influence
- Source of influence comes from "money power" in the House
- Said by members of congress to be the top committee to be on
- Also a great committee to ensure re-election
- Ways and Means emphasize policy more than re-election, however

Interior and Post Office

- Committee of district interests in order to gain re-election through constituency service
- Post Office committee members often work on other committees and seniority plays a large role

Education and Labor and Foreign Affairs

- committee members on these committees want good public policy

How do committees operate in congress and how do they differ?

- committees with similar goal patterns display similarities in behavior
 - Committees work in different environments, so they will not all work the same
 - Ways and means and appropriations and interior are more autonomous decision makers
 - Foreign Affairs, Education and labor and Post office have less of an independent influence on their own decision making process
-

PSC 309, Week 4

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 2

Ann Stenerson, "Bomb Making for Beginners: inside an AQ Course"

Notes by Sydney Baumgartner, 9/18/2017 11:15

This reading focuses on how the Internet assists terrorists in learning how to create explosives

Explosives are the most frequently used devices by terrorists

½ of the terrorist attacks in the world

5 Points of Major Focus:

Al Qaeda's shift to individual jihad

General learning of bomb-making

“E-learning” courses of bomb-making

Evolution of Al Qaeda's learning tools

A general overview of a US “cell” of potential terrorists

Al Qaeda’s Shift

Pressure on terrorist sanctuaries have led to the push in the leaderless jihad.

Not a new concept

1990s: Lectured/presented by jihadi strategist Abu Musab al-Suri as well as presented in jihad training camps for recruits.

Known also as the Global Islamic Resistance, it praises the lone wolf concept of those who carried out Al Qaeda’s global ideology on a on their own, while having no real personal connection to the organization.

Videos that praise those who carry out this type of terrorism consist of the following:

Recognition of those who have carried out individual jihad

Acknowledgement of the acts as controversial whereas traditional jihad should go hand in hand with this.

Gives a brief operational guide that focuses on types of targets that should be attacked (Media outlets, monuments, economic joints of the country, etc)

Bomb Making 101

Encyclopedia of Jihad

Most famous collection of writings that recorded all experiences of Afghan-Soviet jihad to ensure that knowledge of past attacks and techniques would not be lost on future generations

Written records prove problematic due to partiality, so what is the solution?

Explosive Courses

Taught in camps by experts

Learned bomb making from past professionals

Hands on course

Similar to that of a trade/technical school

Preferred by most Europeans that enlist in terrorist groups

Individual jihad learning strategy

Trial and error experimentation with explosives is the most common.

High motivations, patience, and intelligence' Required

Average of 200 hours to collect the recipe through the internet, acquire ingredients, and create the bombs

This led to e-learning courses to help those that could not do the one on one training and those that were not intelligent/driven enough to figure it out on their own.

E-Learning

Adnan Shukri's Special Explosives Course for Beginners

Anonymous person created a forum for beginners posting lessons, assigning homework, and replied to questions through open response and personal message.

Most effective modern method to date

Evolution of Learning

Essentially the evolution of

learning for jihad has been from the marketing of training camps and literature to a shift to the E-Learning experience to gain more of a global reach

The internet plays an important role in transferring insurgent tactics and technologies between battlefields

Rapid distribution

Crucial - feedback given on public forums for further assistance

****Most visible development****

Terrorist Cell

Real life radicals may exploit online

PSC 309, Week 4

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 3

Marc R. DeVore, "Exploring the Iran-Hezbollah Relationship"

Notes by Katrinnah Harding, 9/19/2017 11:59

Most intellectuals agree that a state's support affects an armed non-state organization's capabilities, but rarely studies are done on their resulting significant impact on the organization's decisions.

DeVore explains that this specific exploration is to address the impact that state sponsorship has on the decision-making process within violent non-state groups.

-An increasingly relevant matter as wars among states have become outnumbered, twenty-to-one, by intra-state wars and internationalized civil wars.

Main Perspectives:

Indirectly

1) State support has impact on violent non-state actor's decisions through shaping their options, with the resources they provide.

Directly

2) Also through persuading = In this case, essentially, threatening to withhold support until the state's demands are met.

4 Forms of Support:

1) Financial Assistance "Allowing for stability, organization, and the ability to win popularity among their constituents.

2) The Provision of Weaponry "Must rely on a state for this, because otherwise, the amount and quality of weaponry that a successful organization requires would be extremely hard to obtain.

3) Sanctuary "A safe haven is vital to an organization's communication, administration, and planning.

4) Political Support "Providing [an organization] an aura of legitimacy.

Lebanon's Hezbollah:

Known among intellectuals as an exceptionally capable organization for

-Conducting attacks against larger enemies.

-Continued effectiveness over the course of a three-decade conflict with Israel.

-Considered to be the world's most innovative armed non-state actors.

(From the idea of a world stage)

Iran and its Support:

Iran has become one of the most active supporters of such groups, likely being motivated by 3 of their Unique Characteristics:

1) By majorly supporting anti-Israeli groups, Iranians have been able to inject their voice into a world that otherwise, they would not be involved in.

2) As an attempt to better represent the greatly oppressed Shia-Muslims that they claim to be the champion of.

3) Iran's conventional military weakness, leading it to rely on proxies to attack/deter its enemies.

When combining Iran's enthusiasm in supporting these groups, and Hezbollah's reputation as "capable", it makes sense that together, they accomplish much.

- Iran's Indirect Impact on Hezbollah's Decision-Making -
Providing:

Financial support = Allowing Hezbollah to take a long-range approach in planning, provides more professionalism in the organization, and supplies them with the resources to offer benefits to their constituents.

Safe Havens = (Even within Lebanon) Enabled Hezbollah's politico-military command structure to organize far better, and eventually permitted the development of infrastructure.

Constant Political Support = Provided a sine quo non for Hezbollah to operate freely in Lebanon.

However, Iran's impact indirectly begins with the origins of Lebanon's Hezbollah. Thus, those are observed.

Origins of the Hezbollah:

- Many of its members, mostly Lebanese Shiites, joined after being involved with other similar groups and thus already had extensive military training/experience.

- Quite a few of these new members coming from Amal, a violent non-state actor, and the previous leader of the "Shiite movement". This group split in 1982 when their leader gave controversial orders; to not resist the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Many of those that disobeyed these orders wanted to do more, and thus, several small, splintered groups were formed.

- The beginnings of Hezbollah were simply these separate groups attempting to defend against Israel. There was no coordination among the groups, and even the Shiite population was not unified against Israel.

- This went on until three Lebanese clerics appealed to Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini (an Iranian Shia Muslim religious leader, philosopher, revolutionary, and politician), for his support of Lebanon's Hezbollah. He, along with other leaders, so enthusiastically agreed that right away, they provided finances, sanctuary, and political support.

- Iranian aid had an almost immediate impact on Hezbollah's decision-making process. Since essentially, it allowed the process to begin where before, there was no process at all, no universal decisions were being made.

- Iran's Financial Aid = "While Iran's sanctuary and organizational aid were crucial to Hezbollah's development of centralized decision-making bodies, its long-term commitment to providing financial aid fundamentally shaped the strategic options available to Hezbollah's policymakers." When given the privilege to choose to plan short-term or long-term, Hezbollah wisely chose long-term. Additionally, because of the wealth Iran was providing the organization, they could launch their "hearts and minds" campaign. This was a grand attempt at winning the favor of their constituents through providing social-services.

- Iran's Direct Impact on Hezbollah's Decision-Making -

Geopolitical Factors:

Periodically, Iran has wanted to use Hezbollah as a proxy to attack its enemies and therefore, has tried to "coax" them into enlarging their list of objectives to include ones they never would have considered.

Of course, on some occasions, it is beneficial for the state to use this "influence" to encourage restraint. This has also been seen in the case of Iran and Hezbollah.

Questions I find interesting:

When is the amount of resources flowing from a state into a non-state actor worth the benefits that they may provide? And where is the line declaring that it is not worth it any longer? How often is that line crossed, when states cut funding to an organization?

PSC 309, Week 4

Badey (ed) readings, Unit

Pillar, "Unit 3.2 Terrorism of a Bygone Era"

Notes by Austin Ohliger, 9/17/2017 22:09

- The 1980s was a period of state-sponsored international terrorism
 - *this type of terrorism declined quickly because of political and cultural changes in the major countries involved
 - ex. Iran after the Islamic Revolution
 - one reason for the decline was the fall of the Soviet Union
 - *their aid to countries like Syria seriously fell
 - another reason for the decline was the negatives of being a "pariah" state
 - *both economic and political issues would arise
 - *"one of the most successful uses of international sanctions"
 - the era of state-sponsored terrorism ended in 1999 when Muammar Qaddafi, leader of Libya, handed over the 2 main suspects of the Pan Am flight 103 bombing
 - *Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi who was convicted
 - *Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah who was acquitted
 - Megrahi was acting under the orders of Qaddafi's regime in the bombing that killed 270 people
 - *in 2009 he was released back to Libya for "humanitarian" reasons due to prostate cancer that was suppose to kill him within weeks
 - he lived 3 more years and died in 2012
 - the Pan Am flight attack shows some realities about international terrorism
 - *ex. the attack shows how crucial timing was to the plan
 - if the flight wasn't delayed and didn't leave late the bomb would've gone off over the Atlantic leaving almost no evidence and no ties to Magrahi or Libya
-

PSC 309, Week 4

Badey (ed) readings, Unit

Eric Chase, "Defining Terrorism: A Strategic Imperative"

Notes by Brendon Carson, 9/18/2017 10:56

This article recognizes that developing a universally accepted definition of terrorism is unlikely. It starts by talking about September 11th, 2001 when a group of assailants attacked the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. The focus moved to whether or not the event was a terrorists attack or a response to a video mocking Muhammad and the Islamic religion. The FBI defines terrorism as "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

"Not One, but many Terrorisms" -Walter Laqueur's observation that any attempt to define terrorism in specific terms "is bound to fail" for the simpler reason that there is "not one but many terrorisms" The old adage "one man's terrorists is another man's freedom fighter" captures the present day challenge. The word "terrorism" has also changed overtime

"For without a Consensus of what Constituted Terrorism, Nations could not Unite Against It"- Conversely, there is broad consensus that there needs to be a universally accepted definition of terrorism for both analytical and practical purposes. Simply it must be defined in order to setup counter terrorism.

An International Framework for an International Problem- Terrorist organizations recruit, finance, and operate across, and between, internationally recognized boundaries. An international framework is necessary to defeat an international problem. EU (European Union) defines terrorism as "serious damage a country or an international organization where committed with the aim of: seriously intimidating a population; or unduly compelling a Government or international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act." NATO defines it as "the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against individuals or property in an attempt to coerce or intimidate governments or societies." The nation-members of both EU and NATO could and should worked together to establish an international coalition that will commit to defining terrorism and outlining clearly stated objectives for such an agreement.

PSC 309, Week 5

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 4

Ali S. Yusuf Bagajii, "Boko Haram and the Recurring Bomb Attacks in Nigeria: Attempt to Impose Religious Ideology through Terrorism? Unit 4.1"

Notes by Ragin Berry, 9/18/2017 17:02

Introduction

Religion plays a vital and influential role in the Nigerian society.

*Religion has proven itself a force in the political development in the Nigerian state.

- Even though religion is vital in Nigeria, studies show that historical roles of religion in the country have been negative, rather than positive.

- The socioeconomic, security and political stability of the country is constantly under threat due to the Boko Haram attacks

Many religious crises have taken place, which are attempts of imposing religious ideology on a secular state

An Overview of the Concept of Terrorism

- Merari describes terrorism as the use of violence by sub-national groups for obtaining political-including social and religious goals especially when the violence is intended to intimidate or otherwise affect the emotions, attitudes and behavior of a target audience considerably larger than the actual victims.

- On the basis above, terrorism is significantly considered as a compulsive strategy of the relatively disadvantaged, the weak who seek reversal of authority, a use of force to achieve a desired policy, a theatrical warfare whose drama involves the actors who actually carry out the violent act, the group against whom the violent act is targeted and the authority due to be influenced or compelled to act.

The modern development of terrorism as a tool to achieve political and religious goals began during the French Revolution

Boko Haram Movement: Talibans and Talibanism in Nigeria? What We Need to Know
The ideology and philosophy of the Boko Haram movement was captured by Tell Magazine:

The mission of the sect was to establish an Islamic where orthodox Islam is practiced. Orthodox Islam according to Yusuf Mohammad, the leader of the sect, frowns at Western education and working in the civil service because it is sinful. Hence, for their aim to be achieved, all institutions represented by government including security agencies like police, military and other uniformed personnel should be crushed.

The Nigerian government has adopted approaches-military and Commission of Inquiry-without any positive results.

Nigeria needs to collaborate with countries who have had first hand experience of terrorism and have come up with reasonable means to reducing terrorism. Countries include: United States, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Israel

Summary and Conclusion

- This article sets out to examine the dynamics of terrorism in the context of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria which remains insufficiently explored.
 - In view of the ideology and philosophy of Boko Haram, it became obvious that terrorism perpetuated by this group in all its ramifications is a serious threat to the national interest of the Nigerian state.
 - Nigeria must further demonstrate her strong commitment to addressing the remote and immediate causes of the renewed Boko Haram attacks by joining hands with the international community.
 - Nigeria must educate targeted youth who could easily become willing tools in the hand of Boko Haram members.
-

PSC 309, Week 5

Badey (ed) readings, Unit

David Blair, "Timbuktu"

Notes by John Vise, 9/17/2017 18:51

This article details the impacts of global Terrorism in North Africa. It talks heavily about the AQIM or Al-Qaeda Islamic Maghreb. It talks about the combined efforts of America and its allies to eradicate terrorism throughout the globe.

In order for terrorism to thrive, it must have good leadership. There were two good leaders who helped lead the AQIM named Abu Harith and Abu Hamza. Hamza was in charge of weapons training.

The article then describes the various activities that the AQIM does throughout the day. It describes exactly what time they rise and when they say their prayers and when they receive religious instruction.

Lastly, the article describes how two French bombings have destroyed the 'bait' that the AQIM set for them. The AQIM set up a fake base known as the Gendarmerie.

PSC 309, Week 5

Badey (ed) readings, Unit

George Kassimeris, "Greece: The Persistence of Political Terrorism"

Notes by Quintez Pearson, 9/18/2017 00:49

The fall of Greece's most elusive terrorist group 17 November (17N) showed: That after a major terrorist group has fallen, after a period of time a new generation of terrorists emerge.

Shortly after 17N was dethroned a new group called the Revolutionary Struggle (RS) took over.

The quick turnover and rise in terrorist violence of the RS revealed that dethroning terrorist group did not discourage or demoralize their actions, but simply led to an increase of more guerrilla groups and revolutionary violence.

Greek Political Violence

Political violence in Greece struck during the mid-1970s due to complex political conditions and long-standing cultural influences.

Files were kept on each Greek citizen underlining critical information such as "leftist" or "communist". This was enforced a set of emergency laws called a 'para-constitution'.

Until the fall of Greece's dictatorship in 1974 there was political surveillance on families and family responsibilities.

After 1974 Greeks move to a multi-party system. The political violence in Greece was a result of complex political conditions and long-standing cultural influences. Files were kept on each Greek citizen underlining critical information such as "leftist" or "communist". This was enforced a set of emergency laws called a 'para-constitution'. Until the fall of Greece's dictatorship in 1974 there was political surveillance on families and family responsibilities. After 1974 Greeks move to a multi-party system.

The Terrorists

Two main terrorist groups: 17N and Revolutionary Popular Struggle (ELA)

Both groups failed to change the attractiveness of prolonged terrorist violence as a psycho-political tool and revolutionary political behavior is still a part of Greece today. Matters such as Greece's debt crisis continue to make matters worse, but are only a small part as to why things are the way that they are others include economic distress, uncontrolled immigration, and disaffected policing.

PSC 309, Week 5

Badey (ed) readings, Unit

Peter W. Singer, ""The Cyber Terror Bogeyman""

Notes by Cameron Compton, 9/18/2017 09:43

Peter W. Singer, says that you are more likely to be killed by a toilet than to be killed by a cyber attack.

he says that the FBI defines cyber terrorism "premeditated, politically motivated attack against information, computer systems, computer programs and data which results in violence against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents." As one congressional staffer put it, the way we use a term like cyber terrorism "has as much clarity as cybersecurity" that is, none at all.

he says we mix up our fears with the actual state of affairs. The deputy defense secretary was conflating fear and reality, not just about what stimulant-drinking programmers are actually hired to do, but also what is needed to pull off an attack that causes meaningful violence.

Singer says, "Policymakers must worry that real-world versions of such attacks might have a ripple effect that could, for example, knock out parts of the national power grid or shut down a municipal or even regional water supply."

PSC 309, Week 6

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 8

Badey, "Unit 8: Women/Terrorism"

Notes by Sydney Baumgartner, 10/11/2017 09:31

Section 1: Badass Women in the Islamic State

Avesta: Kurdish sniper for the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK; a rebel group that has fought the Turkish state for 30 years)

Her name that she goes by when she engages in combat is the same as the holy book of Zoroastrianism

A religion that Kurds consider as their original creed

Radicalized at a young age, like most members, and left home at 15 to become a PKK fighter like her brother after finding his mutilated body

She commands a group of 13 fighters (8 women) in the PKK and helps fight off jihadists of the Islamic state

Fought major battles against Turkey in 2005, 2008, and 2012, and basically states that the war on Islamic jihadists is a cakewalk compared to that of Turkey

PKK Background

Marxist organization

Provides intense boot camps for its members

Immerses members in leftist ideologies, ideas of women in various societal roles, weapon training

Fighters live in bare-bone camps in the mountains

The organization prohibits romantic relationships and allows little contact with the families of the fighters

Half of the organization's leaders are women, which is extremely rare in the Muslim world

Women in the PKK, like Avesta, find this empowering, and it encourages them to keep fighting

"It gives us strength and motivation when a woman like Avesta is a commander" - 19 year old male in the PKK

Future Challenges

Tensions with the Iraqi Kurds

PKK's participation in the fight against the Islamic state hasn't gotten a strong reaction from Turkey

Only considers them hostile and has close ties to the Iraqi Kurds

Could result in more negative than positive backlash

PKK could raise negative reactions in the West - called a terrorist group by the US already

Section 2: Britain's Female Jihadists

Great Britain is now the leading source in Europe of female jihadists in Syria and Iraq

60 Muslim women from 18-24 are believed to have left Britain to join the jihadist group Islamic State during the last year

Dozens more have inquired about joining after the beheading of James Foley, an American journalist

Motivation: For most, to find a jihadist husband.

Covet the religious and cultural prestige of Muslim widows whose husbands have died as martyrs

Evolution of Female British Jihadists

Until recently, most British women affiliated with IS have been restricted to domestic work, but lately some have demanding greater roles in the IS

Some are recruiters for IS

Use of social media to encourage others like themselves to travel to Syria and Iraq

Some incorporated into female only militia

Based in the Syrian city of Raqqa, at the IS HQ

Al-Khansaa brigade

Al-Khansaa Brigade

Named after 7th century female Arab poet who was a contemporary of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed

Est. 2014

Purpose: expose male enemy jihadists who try to disguise themselves by wearing women's clothing in order to avoid detection and detention at IS checkpoints // detail civilian women in Raqqa who don't follow IS strict interpretation of Sharia law

Expansion: operates brothels for the use of IS fighters

Result: these women are now in charge of guarding 3000 non-Muslim sex slaves

Bizarre and perverse

Social Media and Women Jihadists

Aqsa Mahmood

20; Glasgow; left for Syria November 2013

Aspiring doctor that dropped her dreams overnight to marry an IS fighter

Twitter: Umm Layth (Arabic: Mother of the Lion)

Uses account to encourage other women to leave their families and join her and others at the IS

“The IS is your family”

Mujahidah Bint Usama

21; medical student

Publishes pictures of herself in white lab coat holding severed head on Twitter

“Dream job, a terrorist doc”

Khadijah Dare

22; converted to Islam at 18 after joining a radical mosque (Lewisham Islamic Center)

Moved to Syria in 2012 to marry a Swedish jihad + Marriage arranged through Facebook by groom's mother

Vowed to become the first female jihadist to execute a British or American captive
Twitter name: Muhajirah fi Sham (Arabic: immigrant of Syria) â âcelebrity jihadâ
for extreme content
Recently posted pictures of her son holding an AK-47 rifle

Section 3: Women, Gender and the Evolving Tactics of Boko Haram

The Islamic terrorist groups has been active in Nigeria since 2002, when it was founded by Muhammad Yusuf.

âBoko Haramâ means âWestern Education Is Sinfulâ

Nigerian Government has violently opposed the terrorist group.

There was an uprising that was quashed in July 2009, where 800 members of Boko Haram and their leader, Yusuf, were killed.

July 2010: former second-in-command and new leader Abubakar Shekau, released a statement to journalists that said âjihad has begun.â

More than 3,500 people have been killed since 2010, violence shows no sign of abating. This reading addresses their activities: gender-based violence, their instrumentalization of women in its operations, culture and ideology.

GBV In Context (gender based violence)

GBV is defined by the UN as âphysical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.â

Transcends region, religion, and ethnicity In Nigeria with physical and sexual abuse affecting as many as 35.1% of Igbo women and 34.3% of Hausa-Fulani women.

Nigerian law is also infused with discriminatory practices against women.

Instrumentality: Women As Pawns:

2013 marked a significant evolution in Boko Haramâs tactics. A series of kidnappings, in which one of the main features was an instrumental use of women, was done in response to corresponding tactics by the Nigerian government.

Boko Haramâs first actual kidnapping operation was carried out one year later in February 2013, with the abduction of a seven-member French family in northern Cameroon, then brought back to Nigeria.

4 children included in French family group.

Between February 2013 and May 2013, the kidnapping strategy was brought directly to Nigerian soil, with the abductions of more than a dozen government officials and their families.

May 2013: a mass assault on police barracks in Bama, Borno State in which militants captured 12 Christian women and children, was carried out.

More than 100 people were killed.

Shekau made several video messages in which he claimed to have abducted the kidnappings in Boko Haramâs name. He then promised to make the hostages his âservantsâ if certain conditions, such as the release of Boko Haram members and their wives from prison, were not met.

This capture of Boko Haram militants' family members was cited as a grievance in almost all Shekau's video statements in 2012 and 2013. Shekau then threatened revenge on wives of government officials, also speculating on the possible sexual abuse of the Boko Haram family members by government officials. All of these women were targeted for instrumental purposes, as none of those captured on either side had any direct involvement in the conflict. There is also no evidence that the female relatives of Boko Haram members who were arrested by the government had any direct involvement in the group's activities. Boko Haram has paid young boys to carry out acts in the past, but not young women.

Evolving Conflict, Evolving Tactics

The cycle of gender-based abduction and detention and increased violence in Nigeria is evolving and has expanded since Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan announced a State of emergency in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States in May 2013.

Since 2013, the Civilian Joint Task Force has joined security forces in employing new methods against Boko Haram, such as the mass arrest of male suspects in the early hours of the morning, the disappearance of suspects, and the use of young teenage men, fluent in the local Kanuri language and culture to operate checkpoints.

A series of unusual arrests in Maiduguri, Borno state, suggests an immediate and gendered responsive shift in Boko Haram tactics.

In June 2013, an AK-47 a pistol and improvised explosive devices were found in the garments of two "shivering" veiled women in Maiduguri.

Two months later, two women hiding rifles in their clothing were among five suspected Boko Haram militants, who were arrested by the security forces.

Also in August 2013, a woman was detained alongside a 35-year old male Boko Haram suspect.

Additionally, male Boko Haram members have reportedly disguised themselves as women in veils in order to evade arrest.

In July 2013, three men dressed as veiled women were killed, and around twenty others arrested, in an attempted attack on a police station.

This is a pattern seen in the adaptive responses of other terrorists organizations in times of unique pressure on men.

The tactical use of women due to the lesser suspicion they arouse has also been evident in Islamist violence in Pakistan and Indonesia; and within the conflict in Israel and Palestine

Targeting and Abusing Christian Women

The State of Emergency has manifested in other Boko Haram activities involving women, with a reported increase in GBV against Christian women in northern areas of Nigeria, and increasing levels of sexual violence including rape, torture and also murder.

More than 45% of those killed by Boko Haram are Christian women and children.

The Christian Association of Nigeria has been reporting the abduction of Christian teenagers since July 2013.

Women have been increasingly targeted with kidnap, forced marriage, and compulsory conversion to Islam.

These conflicts have predominantly objectified and exploited women.

Women have been targeted in acid attacks, for "un-Islamic" practices, such as failure to wear hijabs or for taking a job.

The generic culture of discrimination against Christians has enabled the escalation in recent violence.

Gender in Boko Haram's Ideology and Culture

Boko Haram's command to Jihad often features exhortations to terrorize Christian communities or, in its words, a "War on Christians," and the victimization of women is a tactic within this strategy.

Sharia Law is a factor

Emphasis on the forced imposition of Shariah facilitates GBV through rigidly gendered ideological structures.

Rise of Boko Haram coincided with the adoption of Shariah in 12 northern states, as was to some extent a by-product of this.

Version of law supported by Shekau and Boko Haram stresses gender roles, enforces strict rules on women's dress and sexual conduct and instituting other discriminatory and abusive acts against women.

Casts men in hyper-masculine combat roles, their duty to violently oppose the West. Globalization has been a factor in such violence and feelings of grievance, with the fracturing of men's traditional identities impacting on their willingness to turn to extremist groups.

The impact of grievances, globalization, and poverty on Nigerian violence suggests that ideology is one of a number of possible factors committed by Boko Haram members and supporters.

Criminal motives also play a role.

The level of control of Boko Haram leadership over the activities of such elements is questionable, and has as yet not been pronounced upon by Shekau.

Conclusion

This article shed light on a neglected but developing aspect of the group's operations: gender-based changes in Boko Haram's tactics and its instrumental use of women, resulting in increasing GBV target at Christians.

The article also outlined the instrumental use of women by both Boko Haram and Nigerian security forces in a cycle of abductions and detentions dating from 2012.

Recent violence and ensuing state of emergency is causing Boko Haram to evolve tactically, engaging women in support roles in the group, disguising men as women to avoid arrest, and abducting Christian women.

Evolution of tactics is based on Shariah law.

Group does not have monopoly on violence against women in Nigeria.

Government troops have also been accused of murder, rape, looting, theft, and more.

PSC 309, Week 7

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 7

Huseyin Cinoglu, "Sociological Understanding of the Relationship between and Terrorism and Religion"

Notes by John Vise, 10/8/2017 22:27

Theory and Terrorism. According to Akers, theories are about and related to real life situations. These include behavioral preferences and our experiences with other individuals and institutions. Akers divides theories into two general categories. For the first group, he specifically talks about the theories that explain or deal with the deterrence strategies. To him, there is something more theoretical and abstract perspectives on crime, which he calls "theories of criminal and deviant behaviors." So far, the nature of the relationship between terrorism and sociology was scrutinized.

Major Sociological Perspectives and Religion- Functionalism and Religion According to functionalism religion is a social institution with specific and crucial tasks in the survival of the society. Most functionalists do not question religion as to why people created or have it, but they tend to focus on the functions of the religion. According to them, religion is pivotal in the preservation of status quo and preventing rapid social changes and movements. Therefore, religion functions in a way to ensure , support, and encourage evolution over revolutions.

Conflict Theory and Religion- Unlike functionalists, with their variations, conflict theory followers tend to see religion as a tool that was not only utilized by the powerful in their efforts of exploiting workers, but also religion is created by them. As compensations for the sufferings of the world, religion offers or promises wealth and happiness in the hereafter. That's why Marx (1844) identifies religion as the "opiate of the masses". To him, religion gives a false happiness and a notion of comfort which deflects workers' attention from their real condition to an uncertain future promise of happiness.

Symbolic Interaction and Terrorism- On the other hand, symbolic interactionist theory mostly endeavors to develop an analytical understanding of religion with a relatively more micro level perspective than the first two theories, (functionalist and conflict theories.) The literature suggested that creation of social networks is fundamental in the creation of meaning systems by the individual.

As you can see from the explanations above, each sociological tradition has different views on religion. They do have weaknesses and strengths over others. For example, functionalists are very effective in identifying and analyzing the functions of religions in maintaining a healthy society and in supporting evolution; while on the other hand, they might easily be characterized as ineffective in seeing the religion's role in generating conflict in the society. The main concern of this perspective is not to explain and reveal the functions of religion in maintaining equilibrium or as the generator of conflict, but they place considerable amounts of importance over its role in the self identity formation through symbolic meanings, values and networks.

Religion as key legitimizing force for violence- Due to its creation of "us vs. them" religious imperatives have the potential to lead more violent actions. Religion offers its followers a unique value system with the power to legitimize and justify the approved acts. Terrorists groups interpretation of these value systems dramatically differ from the mainstream. Most of the time, even at the risk of being expelled as outcasts, they choose to deviate from the fundamental teachings of their religions. This is especially the case for Islamic Terrorist groups. One of Islam's uniquenesses comes from its involvement with almost every aspect of human life. Most terrorist groups' members, either to solidify their membership or to become a full-fledged member, are required or even forced to participate in terrorist acts.

PSC 309, Week 7

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 10

Thomas m. Sanderson, "Combatting Al Qaeda After Bin Laden"

Notes by Katrinnah Harding, 10/10/2017 22:25

The 2011 killing of Osama Bin Laden had many immediate, as well as long term effects on the financing, management, and political environment of al Qaeda.

- By the end of 2011, the immediate turmoil that arose seemed to indicate our long-awaited dominance over al Qaeda.

- This appearance of victory caused many Americans to become over confident, says Sanderson, arguing that the troubles developing in the regions around the organization are due to erupt into major issues.

- "Reality on the ground paints a very different picture of al Qaeda's future than the one hoped for by Washington policy-makers and Main Street alike."

- "Where the situation is most uncertain and where much is at stake, al Qaeda is both spoiler and catalyst."

- o Ongoing affiliate attacks

- o More sophisticated information operations

- o Advanced communication tools/financial networks

- "al Qaeda is now an unguided missile: fearsome, disruptive, and damaging"

- The existence and capability of "lone wolves" are highlighted. These are those individual extremists that are planted in the West, looking to harm. They are most dangerous because of their "no consequences" mentality.

- We have lost our sources of information as our largest providers, like Libya, Egypt, and even Syria, discontinued that service.

Despite all of this, Sanderson argues that the United States' current approach (as of 2012) is working. He praises our key counterterrorism measures as "retain[ing] high levels of funding" and "remain[ing] vigilant". He finishes with a command to the U. S. that if not followed, will result in the successes of the last 12 months being completely in vain. His instructions are as follows: "We must pay close attention, budget appropriately, and continue to improve all of our counterterrorism activities."

PSC 309, Week 7

OLC of DOJ (ed) readings, Unit

Jay Bybee, "Standards of Conduct for interrogation under 18 USC SS 2340-2340A"

Notes by Joe Frazer, 10/10/2017 21:49

Section 2340 defines the act of torture as an: act committed by a person acting under the color of law specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering (other than pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions) upon another person within his custody or physical control.

Geneva convention only prohibits the most extreme acts by reserving criminal penalties for torture and declining to require such penalties for "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment."

There are US laws regarding civil remedies for torture victims. By legal precedent, cases show that torture involves cruel and extreme physical pain.

Sensory deprivation is permissible due to not inflicting severe amounts of pain even though it is degrading and inhumane. Under Section 2340A, interrogations conducted during the war against Al-Qaeda on enemy combatants may be unconstitutional. This is due to an overreach of POTUS's wartime authority as Commander-in-Chief. Under the right circumstances though, it may be permissible due to necessity or self-defense.

PSC 309, Week 7

OLC of DOJ (ed) readings, Unit

John Yoo , “Memo to Alberto Gonzales”

Notes by Joe Frazer, 10/10/2017 22:04

DOJs interpretation of 18 USC SS 2340 does not conflict with Geneva Convention because the US made its reservations known at ratification.

PSC 309, Week 7

Thomas Badey (ed) readings, Unit 7

Kapil Komireddi, "India Must Face up to Hindu Terrorism"

Notes by John Vise, 10/8/2017 23:33

For too long, there have been Hindu terrorist attacks on the local population in India. Their organized violent eruptions across the country-slaughtering Muslims and Christians, destroying their places of worship, cutting open pregnant wombs- never seemed sufficient enough to the state to cast them as a meaningful threat to India's national security.

However, the recently leaked confession of a repentant Hindu priest, Swami Aseemanand, confirms what India's security establishment should have uncovered: a series of blasts between 2006 and 2008 were carried out by Hindu outfits. The attacks targeted a predominantly Muslim town and places of Muslim worship elsewhere. Their victims were primarily Muslim. Yet the reflexive reaction of the police was to round up young Muslim men, torture them, extract confessions and declare the cases solved.

It is when you look at the reactions non-Hindu extremism that you absorb how strongly majoritarian assumptions inform the state and society's conduct in India. In 2002, the Indian government banned the radical Muslim group Simi, (Students' Islamic Movement of India) citing the group's charter, which seeks to establish sharia rule in India, and the terror charges some of its' members were facing. But the Hindu Radical outfit RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or the National Volunteer Corps) remains open for business-even though it campaigns, very openly, for a Hindu state in India, and its members incite and perpetrate violence against Muslim and Christian minorities. Mahatma Gandhi's assassin was a member of the RSS, as are Aseemanand and his confreres. To get an idea of which of the two groups poses a more immediate threat to India, consider this: the government that banned Simi was headed by the BJP, the political wing of the RSS.

The principal cause of Hindu radicalism, much like its Muslim counterpart in Pakistan, is the partition of India in 1947. The departing British hacked India apart to accommodate the Muslim League's demand for an exclusive homeland for the subcontinent's Muslims- and so, the Hindu nationalist logic runs, the territory that remained should logically be identified as the land of Hindus. If Pakistan's Muslim majority crystallized around the bogey of "Hindu raj" , the Hindu nationalistic project thrives by casting the burden of partition on India's Muslim minorities- fifth columnists whose coreligionists tore India apart by claiming, in spite of a millennium-long sojourn in India, to be foreigners by virtue of their faith.

For all the saffron calumny, it is impossible to find a community more emphatically committed to India than its Muslims. India's Hindus never had to make a choice. The Muslims did. Consider what an ordinary Muslim family in 1947 would have had to deal with: terrified by the violence that the partition had unleashed, their coreligionists were

fleeing in the millions to Pakistan; Hindu and Sikh fanatics were actively seeking out Muslims for slaughter and rape; the possibility of being betrayed by neighbors and friends was far from remote. Sardar Patel, the second most powerful functionary in the Indian government, was openly hostile to Muslims- hostility which no doubt would have been seen by many Hindus as tacit endorsement of their actions. Amidst all this, the sole authoritarian source of reassurance would have been the distant pledges of a better tomorrow by Jawaharlal Nehru. The Muslims who remained, who refused to vacate the hell that was India despite the blandishments of paradise next door in Pakistan, affirmed their faith in India with their lives.

PSC 309, Week 8

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 6

Media and State Sponsored Terrorism , “Media and state Sponsored Terrorism by Brett O'Donnell and David Gray ”

Notes by Jada Howard, 10/9/2017 08:13

Media plays an important role in contemporary International terrorism. Terrorist use it to transmit their message to large populations and recruit new members. this gives the terrorist access to a global audience. On one hand we see the media provides the terrorist with 24 hour real-time coverage showing how bad the terrorist are but only if the explosion is big enough and the devastation is horrific. Brian M Jenkins stated "Terrorism is theatre"

Meaning everything terrorist do is done to draw attention. At first terrorism was only meant for a political target with very little collateral damage. But ever since the 1972 Olympic attacks and how it drew worldwide attention terrorist now look at media as a outlet for the of future terrorism.

State sponsors saw this as a way to place blame on someone else so they used the media for their own benefit. By providing misinformation they could keep their people from realizing the truth. State sponsors of terrorism restricted the freedom of information, certain states such as Iran and Libya restricted information outside their borders so the people could support their political leaders.

Margaret Thatcher stated "publicity is the oxygen of terrorism". In this sense some might say media is terrorism's most effective weapon. Terrorist must have Publicity in some form if they are going to gain attention, inspire fear, and gain respect.

Terrorist media has always been about making a statement to the public. technology has made reaching audiences far easier than ever before with satellite radio and television especially with the assistance of the Internet. The media like any other organization needs to be monitored for truth and he'll responsible for the complications it can create.this also brings about the need for the government and media collaboration to monitor stories and keep control not only to keep the print honest but also to keep the state honest as well.

State sponsors rely on Miss information, lack of communication, lack of information, and oppression to keep the people in check.however with the revolution of the Internet and cell phones the American social network is now changing. Governments can only use the media in an effort to arouse world opinion against the country or group using terrorist tactics, public diplomacy and can only be used to mobilize public opinion in other countries.The media change the PLO and altered the face of terrorism for the rest of the contemporary age. it is possible that the changes of technology and media maybe changing Terrorism for the second time but this time for the better. To further show the influence of media and how it has had an effect on recent events in the world the revolution of media in the Middle East has begin to spread to China. With revolution

occurring in the most major states that sponsor terrorism the terrorist groups are now starting to lose their support systems and resources. Perhaps the freedom of information in contemporary terrorism can't be combated as Terrorism's new weapon.

PSC 309, Week 8

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 9

Ariel Cohen, John Klein, , "Government Response (Last 2 Articles)"

Notes by Quintez Pearson, 10/9/2017 07:17

Russia's Northern Caucasus is one of the most volatile lawless regions in the world.

"Hotbed of international terrorism"

US and its allies have interests in reducing the Islamist threat to keep further contribution globally to the Islamist movement.

Lack of state sovereignty allows Islamists, organized criminals, and terrorists to control certain areas seen in Somalia, Yemen, NW Pakistan, Afghanistan, and southern Thailand.

,Nuclear terrorism plays a huge part in security today and is a persistent concern with constant nuclear threats.

Has been shown that deterrence of some terrorist groups (non-state actors) is possible to some degree due to most leaders being rational and functioning strategically.

This deterrence is largely due to the US's effective arsenal of nuclear weapons which causes terrorist groups to think strategically about how to use their arsenals.

History suggests deterrence fails due to miscalculation, uncertainty, or chance.

Dissuasion and deterrence are great in preventing acts of nuclear terrorism, but only if national leaders make it a top priority

PSC 309, Week 8

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 9

Fareed Zakaria, "9.1: The Jihad against the Jihadis"

Notes by Austin Ohliger, 10/11/2017 00:11

The events of 9/11 spawned an age of radical Islamic terrorism that had been festering in the Middle East for some time. The Bush administration launched a series of programs across the Muslim world to strengthen moderates, shore up civil society, and build forces of tolerance and pluralism. The main reason for change away from radical government was blunders by Al Qaeda. Because of the difficulty of moving money, people, and materials around the world, they attacked local areas instead of global targets. This threatened the regimes that had given them the ability to operate and grow.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia started a large-scale political and intellectual effort to discredit the jihadists' ideology. General David Petraeus, chief of Central Command, said that this was one of the most important positive developments in the war on terror. Indonesia under a new democracy marginalized the main terror group of the country, Jemaah Islamiah. Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) gained ground militarily but lost political ground because of their brutal tactics against fellow Muslims and their push for a Sunni-Shia civil war. Religious leaders, schools, and even some within Al Qaeda began to speak out against jihad. Polls show that suicide bombings are becoming less justified, by the people in the Middle East, to defend Islam.

PSC 309, Week 8

Badey (ed) readings, Unit 9

Hussein Solomon, "9.2: Counter-Terrorism in Nigeria"

Notes by Austin Ohliger, 10/11/2017 00:27

Boko Haram has been attacking Nigeria since 2002 when it was established by Mohammed Yusuf. After Yusuf was captured and killed in police custody on July 31, 2009 Nigeria's response to BH was to match violence with violence. BH looks to be on the move towards a more international attack with growing ties to Al Qaeda. Ties include BH modeled themselves after the Taliban, Yusuf was accused of getting money from AQ, BH leaders met with AQ in the Islamic Maghred (AQIM) and sent members to train, BH has ties to Al-Shabaab of Somalia, and many fighters are part of the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa.

In 2001 Nigeria's current security infrastructure was ill-equipped to deal with Boko Haram's threat. Many issues with Counter-Terrorism in Nigeria examples: financial support networks of BH are mostly unknown, Wide-spread increase in radicalization, lack of technology and forensic ability by police, counter-terrorism unleashed brutal security forces which lost the hearts and minds of the people, counter-terrorism promises weren't always the same as the results. Boko Haram had some members and/or sympathizers in the government and security agencies. In 2010 President Jonathan of Nigeria backed-off of his "fighting fire with fire" idea and hoped BH would talk with the government to find a solution to their main issues. Abul Qaqa, Boko Haram's spokesman, was against this idea and said that they would continue fighting.

PSC 309, Week 8

Griffiths (ed) readings, Unit 1

3. Charles Kenny & 4. Gary Haugen/Victor Boutros, "Section 1 Parts 3 and 4"

Notes by Sydney Baumgartner, 10/18/2017 10:05

3. Best Decade Ever

The first ten years of the 21st century were filled with tragedy (i.e. 9/11; Enron scandal; Katrina); however, these "Naughty Aughties" as the writer calls them were actually the best ten years of the 21st century, and maybe even humanity's finest. More people lived better/longer, more peaceful, and more prosperous lives.

Economy

EX) 1990: ½ of the global population was surviving on less than \$1 a day, but by 2007 this number shrank to 28%.

The financial crisis in 2008 was a hiccup in the decade's relentless GDP climb. Average world wide incomes have reached \$10,600 yearly, and have risen a quarter since 2000.

This demonstrates an expansion of the global middle class.

Although 1 billion people go to bed hungry, food prices are beginning to drop and the world's undernourished population has fallen from 34% (1970) to 17% (2007).

Agricultural productivity continues to climb (EX: cereal yields doubled the rate of population growth in developing world).

Modern Medicine

We're winning the global battle against infectious disease.

2009: the swine flu killed 18k people; however, at a global perspective that is not terrible considering the "apocalyptic" version of airborne viruses that everyone was afraid of.

Decrease in death due to increased vaccinations, specifically in children (50% → 82%).

Child mortality rate lowered and 2 years added to life expectancy.

Overall Improvements

Increased literacy in third world countries and low-income societies.

~ of world population can now read and write.

Those who seek higher education increased from less than 10% to above ¼ of the world population (2000-07).

Women are becoming more active in government globally.

Wars have become more minor in comparison to ones in the past.

of armed conflicts and death toll continues to fall.

Increase in technology has been a huge help in all of this as well as other progressions.

4. And Justice for All: Enforcing Human Rights for the World's Poor

A poor person in the developing world isn't necessarily associated with an abstract political fight for freedoms on paper but rather a fight to survive in general. It's a fight to avoid extortion, slavery, imprisonment, rape, and more. Human rights movements within the past 60 years have contributed to the criminalization of these

abuses in every country; however, those laws are rarely enforced in a majority of countries. Referred to as a moral tragedy that needs to be fixed.

Cold Cases

June 2008: UN estimated that 4B were living outside the protection of these laws
World wide, people see the police as corrupt, vigilantes, and criminals.

Kenya: 2006; 65% of citizens polled stated that they found it difficult to find help from the police and 29% had to make extraordinary efforts to avoid issues with the police
Countries with police forces that actually want to help the poor normally lack the training and the resources to do so

More often than not if someone that is classified as poor is in contact with the justice system beyond the police, it's because they have been charged with crimes

Poverty and obstruct justice system puts them in a horrible position

Scarcity of lawyers in the developing world makes matters worse ' most have never met an attorney

In NY, one lawyer per 749 citizens; Zambia, one lawyer per 25,667 citizens

A Third Era

The modern human rights movement began after WWII when a group of scholars and diplomats started to codify international standards on fundamental rights

EX) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, conventions on discrimination, torture, children's rights, women's rights, etc

Produced body of rights and norms that continues today

Two phases: intellectual then political ' putting the 'norm' into action

Ironic because a lot of these justice systems did not develop past a colonial period and they still refuse to house the poor

Courts and police are corrupt, so they rely on wealthy individuals as well as alternative justice systems

The High Costs of Low Enforcement

A lot of these issues derive from the funds that are supposed to be going towards assistance for the poor never make it there

World Bank study found that 85% of aid flows are diverted away from targets due to corrupt leaders and officials.

Resources that do reach aren't much better

Farm tools to widows whose land has been stolen

Vocational training doesn't help those in jail because they didn't pay someone's bribe

Profits stolen by police

Pulling Up Short

International human rights and development agencies fear building functioning justice systems in the developing world is impossible

International human rights and development agencies sense that larger bodies like the UN and World Bank are undertaking efforts when they probably aren't

Temporary efforts made but sustaining.. Not so much

Lack of donors towards these 'human rights funds'

PSC 311, Week 9

Brewer (ed) readings, Unit 9

Stone, "Boehner's Dilemma: A Tempest in a Tea Party?"

Notes by Joe Frazer, 10/18/2018 18:38

The Republicans took control of the HR in the 2010 midterm election with Boehner taking the Speakership. This was partly accomplished by the emergence of the Tea Party. The Tea Party is more dogmatic and unwilling to compromise compared to the Republican leaders who are pragmatic. The rift was further exacerbated in the 2014 primary election when the Republican House Majority leader, Eric Cantor, lost to a Tea Party firebrand. Boehner eventually resigned in 2015 due to this rift in the Republican Party with Ryan taking the Speakership.

PSC 311, Week

Article (ed) readings, Unit

Anon18ResistancelnsideTrumpAdmin-NYTimesOpEd090518 from Gdrive, "Interviews with Bob Woodward, from media sites & YouTube"

Notes by Joe Frazer III, 9/14/2018 04:19

High level officials are working against President Trump. Not only do they not agree with Trump but they are actively working against him in the West Wing. They are not always successful but they try to contain Trump's missteps.

In public and private Trump criticizes traditional American values of freedom, trade, and separation of powers.

There are successes in this administration but they are overshadowed by Trump.

Bob Woodward's method is to get officials to rat on each other.

Yes, but is discredited by opponents as "fake news." Officials are working against the President. "There is literally no telling whether he might change his mind from one minute to the next," a top official complained... Depends on the outcome of 2018, 2020, and 2022 elections due to impeachment process.

PSC 311, Week

Article (ed) readings, Unit

Michael Wolff, "from Fire and Fury book, article in New York magazine, 01/03/18, Gdrive"

Notes by Ethan Fuller, 9/18/2018 19:04

Within an article submitted to the New York Magazine, entitled "Donald Trump Didn't Want to Be President," Michael Wolff details "Donald Trump's plan to lose, and the administration's initial shock of being in office." Wolff shares that on November 8, 2016, Trump's Campaign manager Kellyanne Conway was prepared to lose the election. He writes that, "Donald Trump would lose the election" of this she was sure "but he would quite possibly hold the defeat to under six points. That was a substantial victory. As for the looming defeat itself, she shrugged it off: It was Reince Priebus's fault, not hers." He continues to detail the preparedness of Donald Trump, Kellyanne Conway, Jared Kushner, and others in losing the presidential election.

According to Michael Wolff, no one in the Trump campaign planned to win, but to Donald Trump, he had already won. Roger Ailes, a longtime friend of Donald Trump, had once stated, "if you want a career in television, first run for president," and he had encouraged Donald Trump to continue running for president. Wolff shares that, "Trump, encouraged by Ailes, was floating rumors about a Trump network and a great future. He would come out of this campaign, Trump assured Ailes, with a far more powerful brand and untold opportunities." One week prior to the election, Trump is reported to have told Ailes, "This is bigger than I ever dreamed of! I don't think about losing, because it isn't losing. We have totally won." Michael Wolff depicts Trump's run for presidency as a giant publicity stunt, in which he never imagined he'd actually win.

During the campaign in mid-August, Trump's team was calling itself "the broke-dick campaign," because Trump refused to invest his own money into the campaign. Despite Bannon telling Kushner that \$50 million dollars was needed to support the campaign up until election date, the outspoken billionaire Trump was only willing to give his own campaign \$10 million, "provided he get it back as soon as they could raise other money." It seems evident that Donald Trump and his team foresaw an inevitable defeat. Wolff writes, "Why should he care? Once he lost, Trump would be insanely famous and a martyr to Crooked Hillary. His daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared would be international celebrities. Steve Bannon would become the de facto head of the tea-party movement. Kellyanne Conway would be a cable-news star. Melania trump, who had been assured by her husband that he wouldn't become president, could return to inconspicuously lunching. Losing would work out for everybody, and losing was winning." Further indicating the lack of concern for winning the election, members of the campaign, such as Michael Flynn had been advised by friends to not take money from the Russians. To them, he simply responded in assuring tone, "Well, that would only be a problem if we won."

Unfortunately for the Trump Campaign, Donald Trump did in fact win the 2016 presidential election, and Michael Wolff shares that the incoming administration couldn't have been more unprepared. He writes that, "During the first month, Walsh's disbelief and even fear about what was happening in the White House moved her to think about quitting. Every day after that became a countdown toward the moment she knew she wouldn't be able to take it anymore. To Walsh, the proud political pro, the chaos, the rivalries, and the president's own lack of focus were simply incomprehensible." Nearing the end of the article, Walsh demanded that Kushner list for her the three priorities of the White House, or the three primary things the president would like to focus on. Wolff writes that "Kushner was wholly without an answer. 'Yes,' he said to Walsh. 'We should probably have that conversation.'" These final quotes clearly indicate the lack of focus in the modern White House. Donald Trump has seemingly operated on an agenda of populism, and within Michael Wolff's new book, "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," he details the behavior of Donald Trump and his staff in 2016.

Having worked for the Washington Post since 1971, Bob Woodward is one of the most famous American investigative journalists to ever live. Most famously, he has conducted extensive journalistic work on Watergate, "Jimmy's World Scandal," the George W. Bush administration, and the current Trump administration. As far as methods of journalism go, Woodward often "uses extensive interviews with firsthand witnesses, diaries, meeting notes, calendars, and other documents." He strives to tell stories through the lenses of primary actors, and often uses anonymous sources within his reporting to the Washington Post and his personal publications.

Woodward's usage of anonymous sources draws him criticism regarding his journalistic style, and it begs the question, "Is it legitimate to write a report based on anonymous sources?" Now deceased American journalist/author Nicholas von Hoffman criticized Woodward's work by saying that his books are, "filled with long, at times tedious passages with no evident direction." American journalist Joan Didion criticized Woodward's works by saying that some of his work is, "a familiar newsroom piety, the excuse in practice for a good deal of autopilot reporting and lazing thinking." While it can be difficult to trust anonymous sources, it is sometimes best to protect the identities of those who share their personal accounts. Also, I would argue that credible publishers such as the Washington Post and Bob Woodward are completely legitimate and trustworthy. In 1996, Richard Harwood of the Washington Post defended his fellow Post journalist Robert Woodward by writing, "talking to people you write about, checking and cross-checking their versions of contemporary history, and collecting documentary evidence in notes, letters, and records." This is what defined Woodward's style of investigative journalism and is exactly why his reporting is legitimate, despite featuring anonymous sources.

As Michael Wolff made abundantly clear within his publication of “Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House,” there is a great deal of dysfunction plaguing the Trump Administration. There are internal rivalries, personal histories of illegal or inappropriate behaviors among staff, a reported deterioration to the president’s mental health, etc. All of these contribute to what Wolff would consider a “White House on fire.”
