

## Key terms + ideas

- civil society
- political pacts
- parliamentary sovereignty
- constitutional monarchy
- capital mobility
- Liberalism
- democratization vs. democracy
- landed elite

## Key questions

**Q: What are the three necessary characteristics of democracy for Dahl?**

**A:** In Dahl (1971), there are three critical characteristics of democratic government, or a government responsive to (mostly) all of its citizens. First, in democracies, all full citizens are able to *construct* their own preferences for politicians and policies. Second, they are able to *demonstrate* these preferences to the government. Third, the government *listens* to all opinions without giving preferential treatment to certain ones.

**Q: What is a polyarchy and how is it different than democracy? Does Dahl believe true democracies exist?**

**A:** By contrast to Dahl's conception of democracy, polyarchies are relatively but not completely democratized regimes because they do not fulfill all of Dahl's conditions for full democracy. Dahl argues that no large system in the real world (including the United States) is fully democratized according to his definition of democracy.

**Q: What are the important dimensions of democratization according to Dahl?**

**A:** Dahl argues that the degree of the political system's *liberalization* and *inclusiveness* structure the democratization process. First, the democratization process is defined by the level of *liberalization*, or the degree of public contestation of the regime's policies. Another way of thinking about liberalization is the level of opposition allowed under the regime. Second, Dahl identifies another distinct dimension in *inclusiveness* that he defines as the right to participate in elections and serve in office.

**Q: What is the Lipset hypothesis? How is it different than Przeworski and Limongi's argument?**

**A:** In his piece, Lipset argues democratization occurs after economic development (wealth, industrialization, urbanization, education) because the increased wealth changes the structure of the middle class and the social conditions of workers. He also comments on the role of rising education increasing the public's capacity for toleration.

Unlike Lipset, Przeworski and Limongi suggest that wealth matters more for sustaining democracy, not democratization. They argue that once a regime is a democracy, the correlation Lipset identifies insulates the regime from the potential backsliding.

## Week's readings

- Dahl, Polyarchy, pp. 1-9; 14-40; 48-61.
- Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy", pp. 69-105.
- Przeworski and Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts" pp. 155-184.
- Berman, "How Democracies Emerge" pp. 28-41.
- Teele, Forging the Franchise, pp. 1-12 and 15-47.
- Varshney, "India's Democratic Longevity and Its Troubled Trajectory" pp. 34-72.

## Review questions

Check your understanding of this week's material and key ideas with the following questions.

1. How does Dahl's costs of toleration vs. costs of repression framework explain democratization?
2. What are the obstacles to democracy? Is democracy possible everywhere or are there certain requisites for democracy?
3. Is violence a necessary part of democratization? Does democratization occur gradually?
4. Let's think about all of our theories in terms of the creation and stability of American democracy. In lecture, Prof Levitsky made a voluntarist argument regarding American democratization; what is the logic here? How might the various structuralist theories explain democratization and stability in the US (cultural theorists, modernization theorists, class-based theories)? What do you find to be the most convincing argument?
5. Does it make sense to expect the same factors to cause the transition of democracy and the persistence of democracy?
6. Should we expect newly democratizing countries to follow the same paths as those taken by countries in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
7. Slot each of the readings from this week into a structuralist or voluntarist category. Justify your decision in three sentences per reading.

## References

Dahl, Robert A. (1971). *Polyarchy: participation and opposition*. eng. HOLLIS number: 99156398756903941. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0-585-38576-1.