

Parties, Electoral Systems, and Political Representation

Section 12

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Fall 2024

Gov 20: Foundations of Comparative Politics

- 1 Reminders
- 2 Review of critique types: theoretical vs. empirical
- 3 Consociationalism vs. ethnocracy

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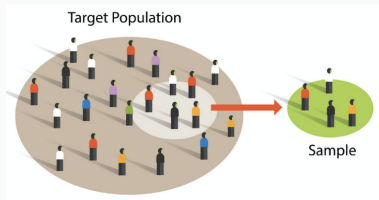


Within the scope of this class

Empirical critiques

Within the scope of this class: think about *case selection*, or the sample of cases

- Sample is biased? A characteristic that is associated with comparison groups that actually does the work



- **Note!** One case doesn't disprove a theory because of noise, so if you find a case that doesn't fit a theory → think about making a theoretical critique

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What are ways that we could probe this statement?

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Theoretical critique:

- Mechanism under fire: the state doesn't actually protect minority or ethnic groups
- Mechanism makes sense **BUT** a non-neutral state is crucial for this mechanism to work

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What is consociationalism? What different institutions does it require?

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- Consociational democracy is a political regime that counteracts the 'centrifugal tendencies' of a plural societies through elite cooperation (Lijphart 1977, 1)
- It is defined by 4 traits:
 - (1) the presence of grand coalition
 - (2) mutual veto to protect minority interests
 - (3) a proportional representation electoral system
 - (4) a high degree of sect autonomy

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Key: contrasting political platforms are second to ethnic-group identity

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- Are consociational regimes democratic?
- What other institutions can be used to temper ethnic conflict? Hint: think about Lebanon, Sri Lanka
- Do you agree with Lijpart's argument that Consociationalism is the best choice for deeply-divided societies or do you think a different institutional choice would be better?

Last week: we talked about constitutional and electoral systems

In this section, we're talking about how these electoral and constitutional systems interact with parties, in particular:

1. What is an institution?
2. Electoral rules and their implications
 - Putnam
 - Varshney
 - Berman