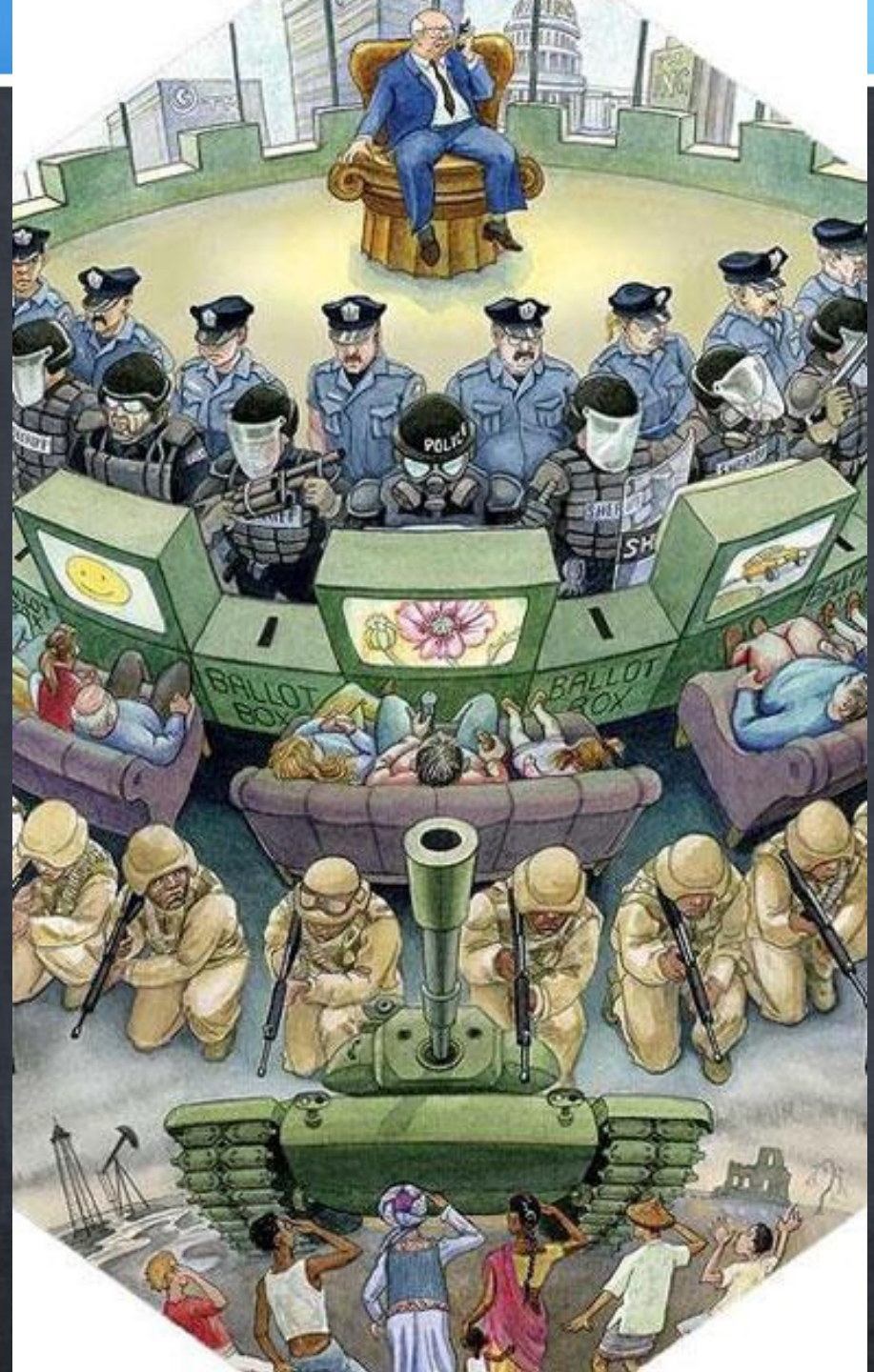


Government and Politics

Lecture



What is the main subject of Burris' (2005) study?

- a) Interlocking directorates and political cohesion
- b) Religious affiliation and political ideology
- c) Working poverty and voting patterns

What type of methods did Burris (2005) apply to provide support for the theory that interlocking directorates facilitate political cohesion among corporate elites?

- a) Qualitative
- b) Quantitative

Interlocking board of directorates influence the political cohesion of the capitalist class.

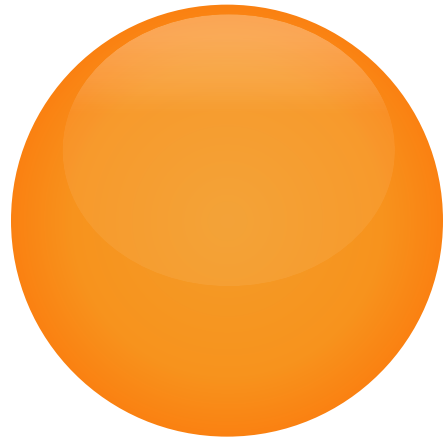
- a) True
- b) False

“I voted in November 2014 elections.”

- a) True
- b) False

Lecture Learning Outcomes





WHAT IS POWER? HOW DOES ONE HAVE THE POWER TO LEGITIMATELY RULE?

Class Discussion 

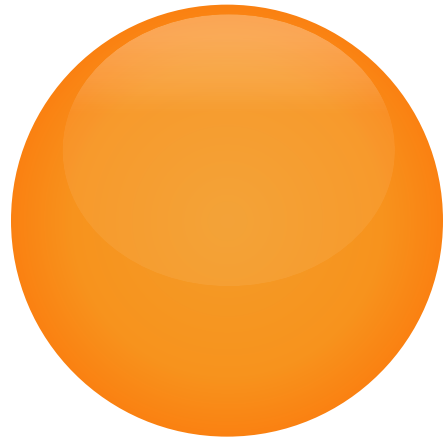


Power is the ability to obtain one's interest over the interests of others

- Liberal Conception: Power to make decisions
- Reformist Conception: Power to not have to make a decision
- Radical Conception: Power to subversively control the political agenda

Weber- Types of Legitimate Rule (Authority)

- Traditional
 - Patriarchalism
 - Partimonialism
- Legal-Rational/ Bureaucracies
 - Fixed jurisdictional areas
 - Clear hierarchy
 - Individuals in bureaucracy held accountable
 - Rules
 - Specialized knowledge
- Charismatic
 - Rootenization of authority



IS GOVERNMENT NECESSARY? WHAT IS ITS FUNCTION?

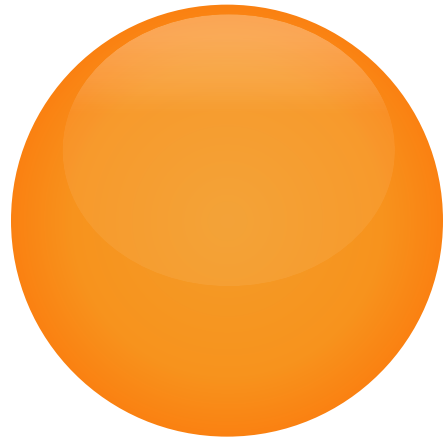
Class Discussion 



Why Government?

- Government or Anarchy?
- Market Instability and the Necessity of the State
- Function of Government:
 - Protect the Citizenry
 - Secure Order
 - Distribute Power Equitably
 - Provide a Safety Net





HOW DOES GOVERNMENT WORK? WHO CONTROLS THE STATE?

Class Discussion




Key Political Theories

- Elite Theory- An elite group holds power
 - C Wright Mills (1956)
 - William Domhoff(1967)
- Pluralism
 - Robert Dahl (1978)
- State Autonomy
 - Theda Skocpol (1985)
 - Michael Mann (1984)
- Historical Contingency Theory
 - Prechel (1990)

Burris (2005) Summary

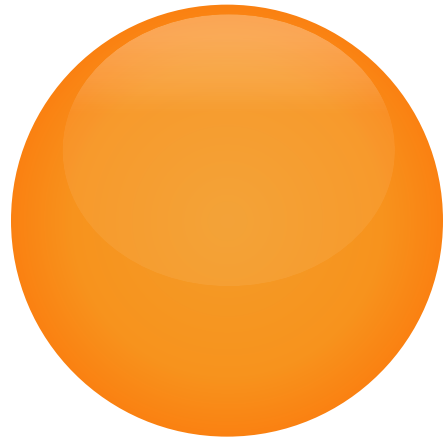
- Research Question: How do interlocking board of directors impact the political behavior of the capitalist class?
- Key Concepts: interlocking directorates (direct and indirect), social ties, individual corporate elites, corporate PACs, political cohesion
- Research Methods: Network analysis using QAP regression analysis of individual campaign donations of top officers of the largest U.S. corporations
- Findings: Direct and indirect interlocking board of directorates on corporate and non-corporate boards both impacts the cohesive political behavior of the capitalist class



Class Activity-

Conduct a Survey on Why People Don't Trust the Government

- Ask 5 people: “How much confidence do you have in the federal, state and local governments?” by responding to one of four choices: a great deal, quite a lot, some or very little.
- Ask why they responded as they did and use follow-up questions until you feel you fully understand their reasoning.
- Track the survey participant’s gender and race.
- Categorize the different responses.
- Are there any obvious racial or gender differences in the responses?



WHAT ARE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH GOVERNMENT?

Class Discussion 



Problems of Government and Politics

- Inequalities in Power
 - The Revolving Door
 - Citizens United v. FEC (2010)
- Failure of Trust
 - Political Alienation
- Waste, Corruption and Scandals
 - Patronage
- Gridlock
 - Partisanship



Weber- Politics as Vocation

- Demigod
- Plutocrat
- Political patronage
- Unprincipled parties
- Self intoxication
- Sins of Politics:
 - Lack of objectivity
 - Lack of responsibility

The Impact of Government on the Quality of Life

A poorly functioning government results in:

- Unequal Opportunities for a High Quality of Life
 - Tax Breaks and Education Cuts
- Inadequate Protection of Individual Rights
 - Gerrymandering and Voting Rights
- Lack of Public Trust
 - Edward Snowden and NSA Surveillance
- Lack of Responsiveness to Needs
 - New Orleans and FEMA



Contributing Factors of Political Disenfranchisement

- Social Structural Factors
 - Government Size
 - Government Structure
 - Economics of Campaigning
 - Politics of Campaigning
- Social Psychological Factors
 - Public Attitudes
 - Ideologies



Think Pair Share-

Develop a plan to increase voter participation.

- What is the causal factor you plan to address?
- What theoretical perspective could support your framing of the problem?
- What exactly do you plan to do?
- What resources do you need to do it?
- How would you measure the successful implementation of your plan?
- How would you evaluate the long-term impact of your plan?



Questions...

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela