

IR 200 Politics of Authoritarian Regimes

Instructor: Shu Yu

Class Location: HYLAN 105

Class Lectures: MW 10:25-11:40 AM

Office Hours: Monday, 14:00-15:00 and by appointment

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Course Description:

In *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992), Francis Fukuyama argued that liberal democracies may become the final form of human government. However, two decades later, 1/3 of the regimes on earth are still authoritarian. Some countries went through democratization, such as Spain after the death of Francisco Franco. But others remained authoritarian, such as North Korea. This course provides an introduction to authoritarian regimes and covers: 1) the different types of authoritarian regimes, which range from personalistic dictatorships to new forms where a variety of actors are institutionally represented (e.g., militants, monarchists, regime-party, etc.); 2) the conditions for authoritarian regimes to survive, function, and be accountable; and 3) a comparison between democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes. Students are expected to complete oral and written assignments which are designed to help them develop their problem solving, writing and presentation skills.

Required Text:

Theories of Authoritarian Politics (Feb 16-18)

The Anatomy of Dictatorship, in Svobik, Milan W. 2012. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Smith, Alastair, Siverson, Randolph M., and Morrow, James D. 2003. The Logic of Political Survival. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapter 1-2

Repression and Protest (Feb 23-25)

Kuran, Timur. 1991. Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. World Politics, 44:748.

Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A. 2005. Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

Case study: The Arab Spring (Mar 2)

+++In-class presentation (Mar 2)+++.

Email the research topic/subject of your final paper to the instructor.

The Emergence of Personal Authoritarian Rule (Mar 4)

Svobik, Milan W. 2012. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. NY: Cambridge University Press. Pages 53-63 and 75-81 in Chapter 3

Family Dynasties (Mar 16-18)

*Yu, Shu and Geomans, Hein. 2014. "Passing Leadership through the Family Tie", mimeo

Besley, T. and Reynal-Querol, M. 2013. "Selection via Dynasties: Theory and Evidence". Working Paper

Case study: Family Dynasties (Mar 23)

+++In-class presentation (Mar 23)+++.

Coups d'etat and Military Dictatorships (Mar 25-Apr 1)

Wright, Thomas C. 2001. Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution. Westport: Praeger. Chapter 9

Yu, S. 2014. Political Stability and Leader Selection". Working Paper.

Svobik, Milan W. 2012. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. NY: Cambridge University Press. Pages 123-138, 148-153, and 159 in Chapter 5.

*Geddes, Barbara, Erica Frantz and Joseph Wright. 2014. Military Rule. Annual Review of Political Science. 17(1): Forthcoming.

Final Paper Meeting I: Apr 6

Dominant party rule (Apr 8)

Why Authoritarian Parties? The Regime Party as an Instrument of Cooptation and Control, in Svobik, Milan W. 2012. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

*Greene, Kenneth. 2010. The Political Economy of Authoritarian Single-Party Dominance. Comparative Political Studies 43(7): 807-834.

Case study: China (Apr 13-15)

Malesky, Edmund, Regina Abrami and Yu Zheng. 2011. Institutions and Inequality in Single-Party Regimes: A Comparative Analysis of Vietnam and China. Comparative Politics 43(4): 409-427.

Li, Yuan, Yu, Shu and Zhang, Yongjing. 2014. "The Successors Dilemma in Authoritarian Regimes: The Role of Social Mobilisation "

Institutions (Apr 20-22)

Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. Political Institutions under Dictatorship. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3

Svobik, Milan. 2012. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4.

*Gandhi, Jennifer and Ellen Lust. 2009. Elections Under Authoritarianism. Annual Review of Political Science 12: 403-422.

Economic Development in Dictatorships (Apr 27)

Jong-A-Pin, R. and S. Yu. 2010. Do Coup Leaders Matter? Leadership Change and Economic Growth in Politically Unstable Countries, KOF Working Paper no. 252 ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

Jones, Benjamin F. and Olken, Benjamin A. 2006. Do leaders matter? National leadership and growth since World War II. Quarterly Journal of Economics, 120(3):835-864.

Final Paper Presentations (Apr 29)