GOV 390K
Unique 38950

Kurt Weyland
M 3:30-6:30
in BAT 5.102

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the broad and heterogeneous field of Comparative Politics. First, we will very briefly examine comparative methods and discuss different strategies of investigation. We will then analyze a variety of theoretical approaches and assess their usefulness. Finally, we will discuss analyses of a wide range of substantive issues. In this way, you will become familiar with the pluralism of extant approaches and the most important research questions and answers in Comparative Politics.

I want you to come up with your own position on the numerous methodological, theoretical, and substantive controversies in Comparative Politics. In addition to **active** participation in class discussion, I therefore want you to address issue-oriented questions (which I will distribute) in three essays of 2-3 *double*-spaced pp. (which you will distribute electronically to your classmates by 5:00 p.m. the Sunday before class—with a HEAVY late penalty—and which everybody is supposed to read **before** the seminar session) [you will choose the date for your three short essays], one paper of 5 double-spaced pp., and one paper or research design of 10 double-spaced pp. (due in mid-October and late November, respectively). In order to make sure you can discuss issues "on the spot", you will also do a 3 hr. exercise during the final-exam period in December in which you will write two short essays about questions I will provide—a good preparation for the Preliminary Exam in Comparative Politics.

One of the fundamental capabilities that political scientists need is finding out the basic argument and theoretical contribution of a text and summarizing it in *three* sentences—literally! Therefore, you will write 3-sentence "summaries" of the basic argument and contribution of three of the readings for week one (i.e., choose any three of the last six articles assigned for week one <i.e., NOT Przeworski & Teune or Sartori> & summarize the main argument & contribution of that article in three sentences per article). If all three "summaries" are good, you will get an "A" for the exercise and be done. If any of the three "summaries" is not that good, you will write three “summaries” for week two; if all three of those summaries are good, you will get an "A-" and be done. If not, you will try again, and get a B+ if you succeed; if not, you’ll continue.

Your course grade will be computed as follows:

3	3-sentence "summaries"		5%
3	2-3 pp. papers	5% each	15%
1	5 pp. paper		15%
1	10 pp. paper or research design		20%
1	3 hr. exercise		25%
LOTS of	class participation		20%

The workload for this course is substantial, but I will do my best to make the seminar useful, interesting, and even enjoyable.

UT's honor code governs all work in this course and will be strictly enforced. For example, no internet "imports" in your papers; all literal or slightly altered quotes in any written work—including 3-sentence summaries—must be marked by "..." and credited properly; paraphrasing also must be credited; etc, etc. Please re-read the rules or ask **me** if you have any doubts. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from UT's Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. All SSD rules (e.g., 5 business days of prior notice for accommodations) will be followed strictly.

The following eight books are required reading and are available for purchase in the UT Co-op bookstore.

- Mark Lichbach & Alan Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics,* **second** ed. (2009)
- Ronald Inglehart & Christian Welzel, *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy* (2005)
- Robert Bates, *Markets and States in Tropical Africa* (1981; reprint 2005)
- Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (1992)
- Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (1979)
- Guillermo O'Donnell & Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies* (1986) <thin GREEN paperback>
- Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement,* **revised ed.** (2010).
- David Laitin, *Nations, States, & Violence* (2007).

In addition, I recommend (but do not require) the interviews with many of the leading scholars in Comparative Politics in Gerardo Munck & Richard Snyder, ed. *Passion, Craft, and Method in Comparative Politics* (2007), also available for purchase in the Co-op bookstore.

All of the other readings are accessible on our course site GOV 390K in Blackboard; you can read them on screen, or download & print. If there are any problems, pls. let me know asap. Notice that most of our course readings are fundamental contributions that you should command for your future career (and, not coincidentally, the preliminary exam!). Many of these readings are true "classics" that you will re-read for the rest of your professional life. In doing those readings, please keep in mind the study questions that I will hand out for each week (questions for weeks 1 - 4 are attached to this syllabus). We will use these questions to structure class discussion; thus, they allow you to prepare your own participation.

Iron law: Every student has to make at least **one** substantive comment in each and every class session; I will call on students in case that should be required. Also: please *present & summarize* your 2-3 pp. papers in class—don't read them (all of us will have read them already).

My office hours will be in BAT 4.126 on Monday, 1:30 - 3:00 pm; Wednesday 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.; or by appointment (2-7253; kweyland@austin.utexas.edu). Please feel free to talk to me about any aspect of the course or of the profession or other matters of interest.

I. METHODS

week 01 (August 29): Classical Contributions and Recent Debates on Methods

Adam Przeworski & Henry Teune. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry* (Malabar, FL: Krieger, 1982), pp. 3-57.

Giovanni Sartori. Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics. *American Political Science Review [APSR]* 64:4 (Dec. 1970), pp. 1033-1053.

Arend Lijphart. Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method. *APSR* 65:3 (Sept. 1971), pp. 682-693.

David Collier, Jason Seawright, and Gerardo Munck. The Quest for Standards: King, Keohane, and Verba's *Designing Social Inquiry.* In Henry Brady and David Collier, eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), pp. 21-50.

Andrew Bennett and Colin Elman. Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods. *Annual Review of Political Science* 9 (2006), pp. 455-76.

Charles Ragin. Diversity-Oriented Research. Chap. 1 of *Fuzzy-Set Social Science* (Chicago: University of Chicago Pr., 2000), pp. 21-42.

Rebecca Morton & Kenneth Williams. Experimentation in Political Science. In Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry Brady & David Collier, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 339-56.

David Collier and James Mahon. Conceptual "Stretching" Revisited. *APSR* 87:4 (December 1993), pp. 845-855.

Recommended: David Collier. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 556-600; Adam Przeworski. Ibid., pp. 477-488 (on methodology).

II. APPROACHES

week 02 (September 12): Systems Theory & Culturalism

Gabriel Almond, Introduction: A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics. In idem & James Coleman, eds. *The Politics of the Developing Areas* (Princeton UP, 1960), pp. 3-64.

Max Weber. The Types of Legitimate Domination. In idem. *Economy & Society*, ed. by Guenther Roth & Claus Wittich (Berkeley: U. California Pr., 1978), pp. 212-254.

Marc Ross, Culture in Comparative Political Analysis. In Mark Lichbach & Alan Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics,* 2nd ed. (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009), ch. 6.

David Elkins & R. Simeon. A Cause in Search of its Effects, or: What Does Political Culture Explain? *Comparative Politics* 11:2 (January 1979), pp. 127-145.

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. *Modernization,Cultural Change, and Democracy.* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005), read chs. 1, 7, and 10 carefully and chs. 2, 4-5, 8-9, and 11 "fast."

Recommended: Gabriel Almond. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 63-85.

week 03 (September 19): Marxism, Neo-Marxism, & Economic Structuralism

Martin Carnoy. *The State and Political Theory* (Stanford UP, 1984), pp. 44-140, 172-207, 246-61. **NOTE:** No need to understand all the intricacies of the very complicated discussion in chap. 4; just get a sense of the overall gist of that line of reasoning.

Erik Olin Wright. Class Analysis, History and Emancipation. *New Left Review* # 202 (Nov.-Dec. 1993), pp. 15-35.

Ray Kiely, Capitalist Expansion and the Imperialism – Globalization Debate. *Journal of International Relations and Development* 8:1 (March 2005), pp. 27-57.

Peter Evans, Is an Alternative Globalization Possible? *Politics & Society* 36:2 (June 2008), pp. 271-305.

week 04 (September 26): State-Centered Theory and Historical Institutionalism

Max Weber. Political and Hierarchical Organizations. In idem. *Economy & Society*, ed. by Guenther Roth & Claus Wittich (Berkeley: U. California Pr., 1978), pp. 54-56.

James March & Johan Olsen. The New Institutionalism. *APSR* 78:3 (Sept.1984), pp. 734-749.

Theda Skocpol. Bringing the State Back In. In Peter Evans et al., eds. *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge UP, 1985), pp. 3-37.

Peter Hall. Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State. *Comparative Politics* 25:3 (April 1993), pp. 275-296.

Peter Hall and Rosemary Taylor. Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms. *Political Studies* 44:4 (December 1996), pp. 936-957.

Paul Pierson. Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics. *APSR* 94:2 (June 2000), pp. 251-267.

James Mahoney & Kathleen Thelen. A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change. In James Mahoney & Kathleen Thelen, eds. *Explaining Institutional Change* (Cambridge UP, 2010), pp. 1-37.

Ira Katznelson and Barry Weingast. Intersections between Historical and Rational Choice Institutionalism. In Katznelson & Weingast, eds. *Preferences and Situations* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation), pp. 1-16 only.

Joel Migdal, Researching the State. In Lichbach & Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics,* 2nd ed., ch. 7.

Questions for 5 pp. paper distributed at the end of class on Sept. 26.

week 05 (October 3): Rational Choice I

George Tsebelis. *Nested Games* (Berkeley: U. California Pr., 1990), ch.2: pp. 18-48.
Mancur Olson. *The Rise and Decline of Nations* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1982), pp. 17-35.
Robert Bates. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa* (Berkeley: U. California Pr., 1981), skim chs. 1 - 4, read introduction and chs. 5 - 7.
Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis. The Evolutionary Basis of Collective Action. In Barry Weingast & Donald Wittman, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy* (Oxford UP, 2006), pp. 951-67.
Rose McDermott. The Feeling of Rationality. *Perspectives on Politics* 2:4 (Dec. 2004), pp. 691-706.

Recommended: Robert Bates. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 504-53.

5 pp. paper is due on Friday, October 7, at 12:00 noon, in my mailbox in 2.104 BAT.

week 06 (October 10): Rational Choice II

Kenneth Shepsle. Studying Institutions: Some Lessons from the Rational Choice Approach. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 1:2 (April 1989), pp. 131-47.
Donald Green and Ian Shapiro. *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory* (Yale UP, 1994), ch.3, pp. 33-46.
Robert Bates, Rui de Figueiredo, and Barry Weingast. The Politics of Interpretation: Rationality, Culture, and Transition. *Politics and Society* 26:4 (December 1998), pp. 603-642.
Robert Bates et al. Introduction. In Bates et al., *Analytic Narratives* (Princeton UP, 1998), pp. 3-22.
Avner Greif and David Laitin. A Theory of Endogenous Institutional Change. *APSR* 98:4 (November 2004), pp. 633-52.
Jonathan Rodden. Back to the Future: Endogenous Institutions and Comparative Analysis. In Lichbach & Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics,* 2nd ed., ch. 13.
Bart Engelen. Solving the Paradox: The Expressive Rationality of the Decision to Vote. *Rationality and Society* 18:4 (November 2006), pp. 419-441.
Bryan Jones. Bounded Rationality. *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999), pp. 297-321.
Margaret Levi. Reconsiderations of Rational Choice in Comparative and Historical Analysis. In Lichbach & Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics,* 2nd ed., ch. 5.

III. ISSUES

week 07 (October 17): Political Economy & Development: First World

Douglass North, John Wallis, & Barry Weingast. A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History. Dec. 2006 ms. summarizing 2009 book.

Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John Stephens. *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (Chicago: U. Chicago Press, 1992), pp.1-78. [rest of book recommended]

Torben Iversen & David Soskice. Distribution and Redistribution: The Shadow of the Nineteenth Century. *World Politics* 61:3 (July 2009), pp. 438-86.

Recommended: Barrington Moore. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 86-112.

week 08 (October 24): Political Economy & Development: Third World

Daniel Lerner. *The Passing of Traditional Society* (New York, London: Free Press, Collier-Macmillan, 1958), ch.2, pp. 43-75.

Samuel Huntington. Political Development and Political Decay. *World Politics* 17:3 (April 1965), pp. 386-430.

Osvaldo Sunkel. Big Business and 'Dependencia'. *Foreign Affairs* 50:3 (April 1972), pp. 517-531.

Barbara Geddes, Challenging the Conventional Wisdom. In Larry Diamond & Marc Plattner, eds. *Economic Reform and Democracy* (Johns Hopkins UP, 1995), pp. 59-73.

Kurt Weyland. *The Politics of Market Reform in Fragile Democracies* (Princeton UP, 2002), pp. 18-50.

Erik Wibbels. Dependency Revisited: International Markets, Business Cycles, and Social Spending… *International Organization* 60:2 (Spring 2006), pp. 433-68.

Kenneth Roberts. The Mobilization of Opposition to Economic Liberalism. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11 (2008): 327-49.

Recommended: Samuel Huntington. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 210-33.

week 09 (October 31): Revolution

Theda Skocpol. *States and Social Revolutions* (Cambridge UP, 1979), read chs. 1 - 4 and Conclusion. Skim rest.

Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. Comparative Perspectives on Contentious Politics. In Lichbach & Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics,* 2nd ed., ch. 10.

Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. *Dynamics of Contention* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001), pp. 193-226.

John Foran. *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions* (Cambridge UP, 2005), pp. 5-29.

Recommended: Theda Skocpol. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 649-707.

Questions for 10 pp. paper distributed on Nov. 7 at the end of class; if you prefer to do a research design instead, please consult with me during that week (or better, *before*!!) on a specific topic and make *sure* to follow the guidelines outlined in Przeworski and Salomon, "On the Art of Writing Proposals" [= last item in Blackboard]

week 10 (November 7): Political Regimes & Regime Transitions

Robert Dahl. *Polyarchy* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1971), pp. 1-16.
Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005), chap. 2.
Guillermo O'Donnell & Philippe Schmitter. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies* (Baltimore & London: Johns Hopkins UP, 1986), entire.
Michael Ross. Does Oil Hinder Democracy? *World Politics* 53:3 (April 2001), pp. 325-61.
Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Michael Ward, Diffusion and the International Context of Democratization. *International Organization* 60:4 (Fall 2006), pp. 911-33.
Steven Levitsky & Lucan Way. Competitive Authoritarianism. 2006 ms. summarizing 2010 book of same title.
Richard Snyder. Beyond Electoral Authoritarianism: The Spectrum of Nondemocratic Regimes. In Andreas Schedler, ed. *Electoral Authoritarianism* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2006), pp. 219-231.

Recommended: Juan Linz, and Guillermo O'Donnell. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 150-209, 273-304.

week 11 (November 14): Political Participation I: Political Parties and Elections

Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments. In Lipset & Rokkan, eds. *Party Systems and Voter Alignments* (New York: Free Press/Macmillan, 1967), pp. 1-64.
Russell Dalton and Martin Wattenberg, eds. *Parties without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies* (Oxford UP, 2000), chaps. 1, 12.
Gary Cox. Electoral Rules and Electoral Coordination. *Annual Review of Political Science* 2 (1999), pp. 145-61.
Josep Colomer. It's Parties That Choose Electoral Systems (or, Duverger's Laws Upside Down). *Political Studies* 53:1 (March 2005): 1-21.
Heather Stoll. Social Cleavages and the Number of Parties: How the Measures You Choose Affect the Answers You Get. *Comparative Political Studies* 41:11 (November 2008), pp. 1439-65.
Herbert Kitschelt and Steven Wilkinson. Citizen-Politician Linkages. In Kitschelt & Wilkinson, eds. *Patrons, Clients, and Policies* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007), ch. 1.

week 12 (November 21): Political Participation II: Interest Groups, Elites, and Social Movements

David Riesman. *The Lonely Crowd* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1950), pp. 242-255.
Wolfgang Streeck and Lane Kenworthy. Theories and Practices of Neocorporatism. In Thomas Janoski, Robert Alford, Alexander Hicks, & Mildred Schwartz, eds. *The Handbook of Political Sociology* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005), pp. 441-60.
Sidney Tarrow. *Power in Movement*, 3rd ed.! (Cambridge UP, 2010). Pls read intro, chap. 1, chaps. 5-8, 10 & 12 -- ie, pp. 1-37, 95-180, 195-214, & 234-58, and skim the rest.
Malcolm Gladwell. Small Change: Why the Revolution will not be Tweeted. *New Yorker* Oct. 4, 2010, pp. 42 ff.
Clay Shirky. The Political Power of Social Media. *Foreign Affairs* 90:1 (Jan.-Febr. 2011), pp. 28-41.

Recommended: Philippe Schmitter. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 305-50.

10 pp. paper or research design is due on Wednesday, November 23, at 10:00 a.m., in my mailbox in 2.104 BAT.

week 13 (November 28): Nationalism, Ethnicity – & Conflict?

Ashutosh Varshney. Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict. In Carles Boix & Susan Stokes, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007), pp. 274-94.
David Laitin, *Nations, States, & Violence* (2007). Chaps. 1-4, pp. 1-105.
John Schiemann. Bizarre Beliefs & Rational Choices: A Behavioral Approach to Analytic Narratives. *Journal of Politics* 69:2 (May 2007), pp. 511-24.
Roger Petersen. *Understanding Ethnic Violence* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002), chap. 2, pp. 17-39 ONLY. **[Note: The PDF has more – pls disregard ch. 6]**
Kanchan Chandra. Making Causal Claims about the Effect of "Ethnicity." In Lichbach & Zuckerman, eds. *Comparative Politics,* 2nd ed., ch. 15.

Recommended: David Laitin. In Munck & Snyder (2007), pp. 601-48.

Friday, December 9, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.: Three-Hour Exercise

Note: This date is set by the University administration—not my fault!

Final note:

Recommended compendia and reference works for your prelim preparation and your whole professional career:
Series of Oxford Handbooks (2006-2008)
Annual Review of Political Science, recent volumes.

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Questions about Methods

1) In your view, should Comparative Politics try to come up with general laws, as Przeworski & Teune advocate, or is this endeavor futile and misleading? Why?

2) According to Przeworski & Teune, the social sciences are torn between nomothetic and idiographic approaches. Which position does Sartori tend to? Why? Do his recommendations make sense, in your view?

3) To what extent and under what conditions can the comparative method be successful? How can it be applied in the most useful way?

4) In your view, are King, Keohane & Verba (as presented by Collier, Seawright, and Munck) right in deriving recommendations for qualitative analysis from quantitative methodological approaches? Why or why not?

5) In your view, how valid are Collier et al.'s criticisms of King, Keohane & Verba? How valid and useful are the alternative approaches discussed by Bennett and Elman?

6) In his discussion of the goals and purposes of comparative social science, is Ragin closer to Przeworski & Teune or to Sartori? For what reasons?

7) How persuasive is Ragin's explanation and assessment of the problems and issues that "diversity" and its constitutive features, such as conjunctural, heterogeneous causation, create for prevailing approaches to comparative social research?

8) How much potential do Morton & Williams see for experiments in Comparative Politics? What is your own view on this issue?

9) What are the underlying differences between the radial categories proposed by Collier and Mahon and the classical categorization codified by Sartori?

10) In your view, do radial categories bring a conceptual improvement over classical categorization? Why or why not?

Questions about Systems Theory and Culturalism

1) Where does systems theory fall on the nomothetic vs. idiographic dimension? Why?

2) How valid and useful is Almond's list and specification of the goals and functions of political systems?

3) From where does systems theory see political change arise? What does this viewpoint imply for the role of politics, and how reasonable is it?

4) In your view, how valid and useful are functional explanations? In what ways do they differ from other types of explanation, such as causal explanations? And do these differences constitute improvements or not? Why?

5) In your view, can Weber's concept of legitimacy—and the three types of legitimacy that he distinguishes—serve for empirical analysis? Why or why not?

6) Compare and contrast Ross's and Elkins & Simeon's positions on the proper role of culture in comparative analysis. Which viewpoint do you find more convincing, and why?

7) In your view, are there valid and useful methodological tools besides surveys (cf. Inglehart & Welzel) that Comparativists can productively use to advance or assess cultural explanations?

8) What type of theoretical argument are Inglehart and Welzel advancing? In particular, is it culturalist? Why or why not?

9) Do you find Inglehart and Welzel's claims on the political consequences of mass values and value changes (especially in part II) convincing? Why or why not?

10) In methodological terms, how good is the Inglehart & Welzel book?

Questions about Marxism, Neo-Marxism, and Economic Structuralism

1) What are the similarities and main differences between Marxism and systems theory?

2) What are the similarities and main differences between Marxism and culturalist approaches?

3) In your view, how valid and useful are the typically Marxist assumptions and arguments concerning the state (as discussed by Carnoy)?

4) Do you consider Gramsci's notion of "hegemony" or Weber's concept of "legitimacy" more conceptually valid and analytically useful? Why?

5) Contrary to Marxist hopes, no socialist revolution has ever occurred in an advanced capitalist country. In your view, can Neo-Marxism successfully account for this fact? Why or why not?

6) In your view, how valid and insightful are Marxist explanations of underdevelopment?

7) After the fall of Communism, is Marxism dead as a theory? In your view, how will it have to be adapted? What valid and useful insights – if any – can it still offer us?

8) What is left of Marxism after Wright's reconstruction? In your view, does it sacrifice or preserve the distinctive characteristics of Marxism?

9) What are the Marxian elements in Kiely's article? In your view, do they strengthen his analysis or are they unconvincing? Why?

10) How—if at all—is Evans' optimistic vision related to Marxism? In your view, how persuasive is his reasoning? Why?

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Questions about State-Centered Theory and Historical Institutionalism

1) What are the main similarities and differences between the state-centered/historical-institutionalist literature and systems theory?

2) What are the main similarities and differences between the state-centered/historical-institutionalist literature and culturalism?

3) What are the main similarities and differences between the state-centered/historical-institutionalist literature and (neo-)Marxism?

4) What is a theoretically valid and empirically useful definition of the concept "institution"?

5) How can we theoretically define and empirically identify "state interests" and "state autonomy"? In your view, to what extent can the state attain such autonomy?

6) In your view, could the application of radial categories, i.e. of a prototypical notion of the state and of diminished subtypes, resolve the issues raised by Migdal? Why or why not?

7) In your view, does historical institutionalism advance a convincing account of the role of ideas and of social learning in policy-making? Why or why not?

8) In your view, is historical institutionalism increasingly adopting a micro-foundational approach and therefore being absorbed by rational choice? Why or why not?

9) In your view, are the directions in which Mahoney & Thelen point historical institutionalism likely to strengthen or weaken this approach? Why?

10) In the last 20 years, heavy state interventionism in many countries has ceded to economic liberalization, and many authoritarian and Communist regimes with (seemingly) strong states have collapsed. In your view, is the state-centered literature therefore obsolete?