

SOCI 101
INTRODUCTION TO
SOCIOLOGY

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 > **SOCI 101**

Political Sociology

1. POLITICS

The social institution that distributes power, sets a society's agenda, and makes decisions.

"One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."
 - Plato, *The Republic* (380 BCE)

PLATO



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2. Power is vested in Authority

Power that people perceive as *legitimate*, not coercive

Types of legitimate authority

- a. **Traditional Authority:** Tradition and Culture
- b. **Rational-Legal Authority:** Law and Government
- c. **Charismatic Authority:** Personality

Illegitimate authority uses **FORCE** to gain power
 (rebellion, coup d'etat, terrorism)

TYPES OF AUTHORITY

• **Rational-legal authority** is based on rational rules legally or contractually established; characterized by bureaucracies
 • **Traditional Authority** is dominant type in pre-modern societies; characterized by monarchies
 • **Charismatic authority** rests on appeal of leader and is naturally unstable; characterized by Hitler

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3. Ideal Types of Political Rule

a. Monarchy

- Absolute vs. Constitutional monarchies

b. Democratic Republic

- Rational-legal type/ extensive bureaucracy

c. Authoritarian

- Denies popular participation in government

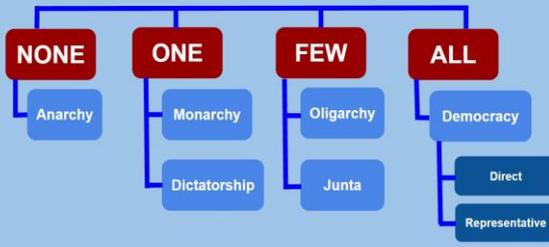
d. Totalitarianism / Fascism

- Close monitoring of people;
- Massive protected efforts to collect huge amounts of information on populace;
- People are expected to adhere to government wishes and are denied basic human and civil rights;
- Government indoctrination begins at an early age.

Political Sociology

3. Ideal Types of Political Rule

WHO RULES?



Political Sociology

4. Is U.S. politics representative?

a. Pluralism (Structuralist)

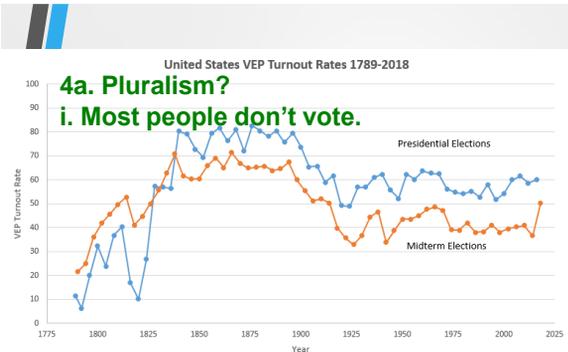
- Rule by the people; follows principles of the democratic republic



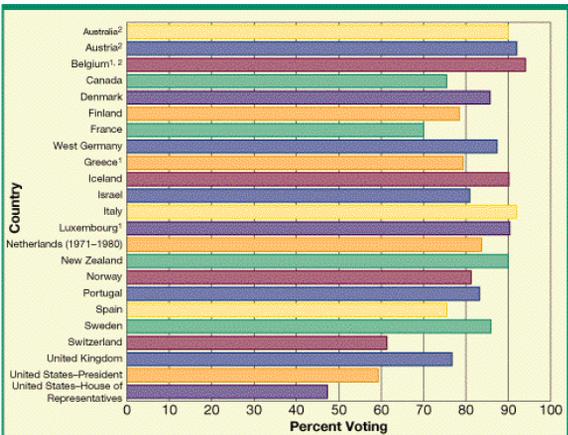
b. Power Elite (Conflict)

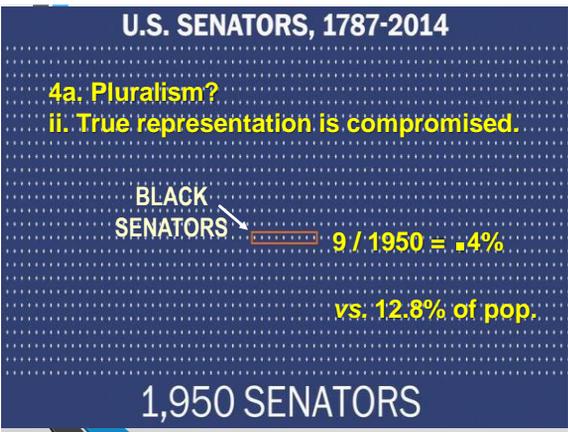
- A small ruling class at the top; not representative of a plurality of interests
- Connections between corporate, political, and social elite
- Follows principles of a monarchy, oligarchy, fascist dictatorship, etc.

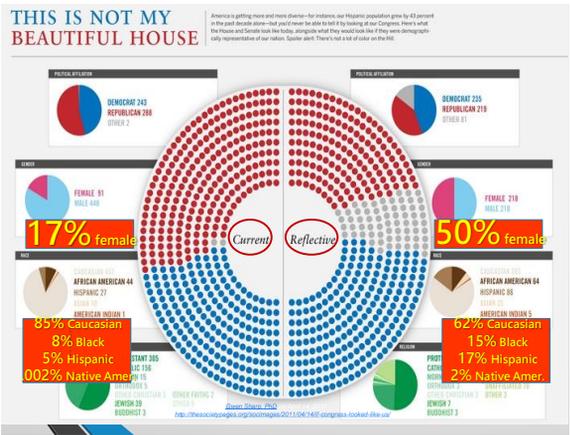


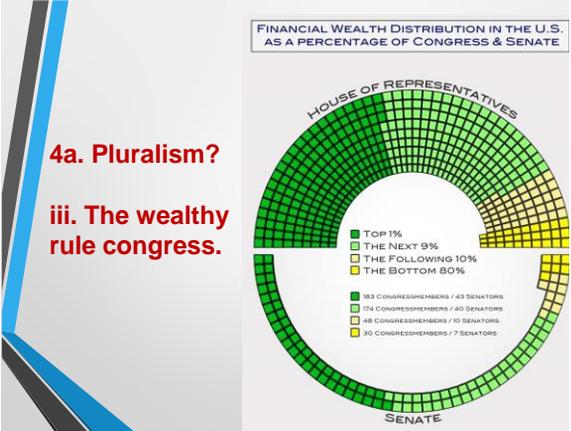


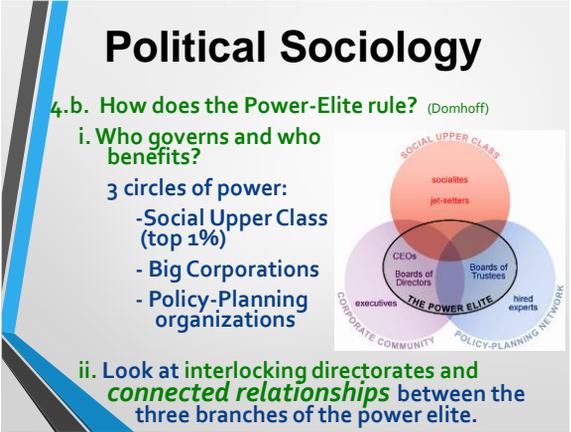
VOTER PARTICIPATION BY YEAR











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4.d. What IS Trump's agenda then? How does he rule America?

i. Appeals to intense traditionalism

Example: "Make America Great Again"

ii. Appeals to intense nationalism

Example: "It will be only America first, America first"

iii. Appeals to intense populism

Example: "We are going to Drain the Swamp"

iv. Appeals to intense ideology

Example: "Extreme vetting of foreigners"

Madeleine Albright (former U.S. Ambassador and Sec'ty of State): "Fascism: A Warning" (2018)

Umberto Eco: 14 Signs of Fascism (1996)

Political Sociology

5. Political change

a. Democratic change means participation in more than just voting.

In the global West, early experimentation with democratic rule emerged in Athens more than 2000 years ago (Plato's *Republic*), and more global democratic reform resurfaced in the 17th century (Rousseau, *Social Contract*).

Emphasis is on involvement, education, agitation, and keeping the power elite from exerting any more power than that which is representative of the will of the people.



Political Sociology

5.b. Political change: War and Terrorism – "politics by another means"

Carl von Clausewitz: "War is merely a continuation of politics."
("Der Krieg ist eine bloße Fortsetzung der Politik mit anderen Mitteln")

Terrorism: Violence, or the threat of violence, employed by an individual or a group as a political strategy.

State terrorism:

Use of violence, generally without support of law, against individuals or groups by a government or its agents. (ex: the Soviet Union, Italy under Mussolini, the Taliban, Iraq under Hussein).
