THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC REFORM

Government 496

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Overview of the Class:

In recent years, the struggle to advance political liberalization and democracy have become interwoven with economic issues, particularly the quest to build market economies in Eastern Europe and the Third World. This process has revived a central debate in political science: to what extent does democracy depend on the evolution of market economies? Does economic reform require democracy, or as some have argued, is economic reform more effectively achieved in advance of political reform? Moreover, how do political alliances, institutions and state-society relations affect this dynamic? We shall see that there are no straight-forward answers to these complex questions. On the contrary, the post-Cold War world presents new challenges and circumstances. Because these circumstances are novel or historically conditioned, the evolution of theories about economic and political reform is an evolving and often messy affair. In this class we will familiarize ourselves with some of the competing theories of reform, and then apply them to case studies of political and economic reform in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia. In doing so, we seek to gain a better sense of how to analyze the relationship between politics and economics in general, and political and economic reform in particular. Hopefully, the analytical tools and skills we develop in this class will prove useful as students pursue careers in the academic or policy world.

Requirements: One mid-term take-home exam, one final take-home exam. Several in-class presentations depending on the size of the class.

Required Books:


PART ONE: THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF ECONOMIC CRISIS AND REFORM

Class Introduction: January 17

Class One/January 22: What is "Economic Reform?"


Class Two/January 24: When and Why Did the Politics of Economic Reform Become a Global Issue?


Class Three/January 29: International and Domestic Causes of Economic Reform


PART TWO: LIBERAL THEORIES vs. “BUREAUCRATIC AUTHORITARIANISM”: THE RISE AND FALL OF A PARADIGM

Class Four/January 31: Lineages of Linear Theory: From the Inevitability of Democracy to the Promise of Authoritarianism

   (Available at: Third World Politics 377)

Class/Five: February 5: The Cracking of BA Regimes


Class/Six February 7: From Bureaucratic Authoritarianism to "Limited Democracy''?


Class Seven/February 12: Testing the “Limited Democracy” Hypothesis


Class Eight/February 14: Critical Distinctions: The Crisis Cases (The Paradox of Failure)


Class Nine/February 21: The Non-Crisis Cases (The Paradox of Success)

Classes Ten and Eleven/ February 26 and 28: Competing Paradigms


Class Twelve/March 12: The Role of Historical-Cultural Legacies


Classes Thirteen and Fourteen/March 14 & 19: The State: Captured, Autonomous, Embedded

Theda Skocpol, “Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research” in Skocpol et. al. (eds.), Bringing the State Back (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985) pp. 3-43. (Available at Third World Politics 377)


Classes Fifteen/March 21: Coalition Management, Group Interests and the Orthodox Paradox


Classes Sixteen/March 26: The Eastern European Experience


Class Seventeen:/April 2: Russia–A Macro-Look


Class Eighteen and Nineteen/ April 4 and 9: Russia–A Micro/Institutional Look


Classes Twenty and Twenty-One/April 11 and 18: The Middle Eastern Experience


Giacomo Luciani, "Resources, Revenues and Authoritarianism in the Arab World" Beyond the Rentier State?" in Rex Brynen et. al. (eds.) Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World (Boulder: Reinner, 1995) pp. 211-227.

Daniel Brumberg, "Comparative Reform Strategies in the Arab World: The Transition
from Populist to Bureaucratic Authoritarianism?" in Rex Brynen Political Lib. pp. 229-259.


Classes Twenty-two and Twenty-three/ April 23 and 25 The East Asian "Tigers"


Re-read the above piece of Peter Evans.

Gary Hawes and Hong Liu, "Explaining the Dynamics of the Southeast Asian Political Economy" Review Article: World Politics Vol. 45, No. 4, July 1993 pp. 629-660.

Classes Twenty-four and Twenty-five/ April 30 and May 2: The Asian “Miracle” Reconsidered

Selected Readings On the Asian Crisis


Class Twenty-Six: Globalization and Reform (“Chez Brumberg”)


“The Eclipse of the State?” Peter Evans, World Politics, Volume 50, Number 1, October 1997 pp. 62-87.