

**Political Culture and Political  
Socialization  
Chapter 3**

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# Political Culture

**Political Culture:** Public attitudes towards politics and their role within the political system in which one has to understand the entire system

3 Levels include System, Process and Policy

- System
- Process
- Policy

# System Level

Views, Pride, Identity, Legitimacy, Participation

- Legitimacy
  - Government's Legitimacy
  - Obtaining Legitimacy
  - Loss of Legitimacy (resorts to violence)

# Process Level

Expectations, Principals, Citizens, Rights and Public Acceptance

- **Attitudes towards Government**
- **Consistency between government and public expectations**
- **Public Roles:**
  - Participants: People involved as actual or potential participants in the political process
  - Subjects: Passively obey government officials and the law, but they do not vote or actively involve themselves in politics
  - Parochial: People hardly aware of government and politics
- **Public Acceptance and Trust**
  - Must trust other people along with accepting other's beliefs in Ethnic, religious and ideological groups.

# Policy Level

## Role of Government, Leaders, Priorities, and Demands of Public

- For example, how welfare is different among different governments or political cultures.
  - US vs. Developing Country
- Within political culture:
  - Consensual Political Culture: Citizens tend to agree on the appropriate means of making decisions and to agree on major problems facing society and how to solve them
  - Conflictual Political Culture: Citizens sharply divided on legitimacy of regime and solution of problems
  - Political Subculture: Formed from conflictual cultures and separate themselves away from the rest

# Socialization

- **Political Socialization:** How individuals form their political attitudes and thus, collectively, how citizens form their political culture and begins from an early age, but constantly changes throughout ones life
- **Direct Socialization:** Involves the explicit communication of info, Value or feelings towards politics
- **Indirect Socialization:** Political views are inadvertently molded by our experiences
- **Agents of Political Socialization:**
  - Family, School, Religious, Peer groups, Social Class and Gender, Mass Media, Interest Groups, Political Parties, Direct Contact with Governmental Structure

# Trends

- **Modernization:** Major cultural trend that has transformed the world and public values
- **Democrization and Marketizations**
- **Post-material Values:**
  - Social Equality, Environmental Protection, Cultural Pluralism, Self-Expression.