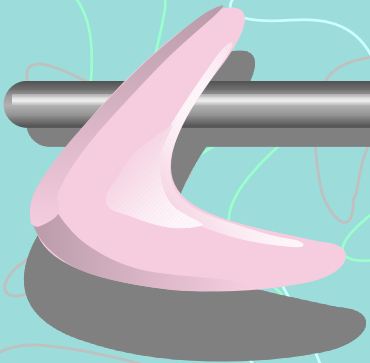


Political Culture and Political Socialization





Political Culture

- **Public's attitudes toward and their role within the political system**
 - Supportive public facilitates a development of a new political system
 - Lack of support erodes foundations of a political system
- **Three Levels of Political Culture**
 - **System Level-** involves the citizens and leaders views of the values and organizations that hold the political system together
 - Examples: National Pride, national identity, and legitimacy of government
 - **Process Level-** expectations of how politics should function and individuals relationship to the political process
 - Examples: principles of government, role of citizens, perceptions of political rights
 - **Policy Level-** Deals with citizens and leaders policy expectations from the government
 - Examples: role of government, government policy priorities



Political Socialization

- **Political Socialization- how individuals form their political attitudes and thus how citizens form their political culture**



The System Level

- **National pride binds people together in times of political strain (causes of division: ethnicity, language, or history)**
- **Legitimacy**
 - **Easier for government to function when citizens believe in it**
 - **Can be based on tradition, ideology, citizen participation and specific policies**



The Process Level

- **How citizens view their political roles**
 - **Participants- involved as actual or potential participants in the political process**
 - **Subjects- passively obey government officials and the law but do not vote or actively involve themselves in politics**
 - **Parochials- Hardly aware of government or policies**



The Policy Level

- **Influenced by what constitutes good society**
- **When public expects larger role for government, it is likely that the policies of the government will grow to meet the public's expectations**
- **Combination of learned values, strategies, and social conditions may lead to different perceptions about how to achieve desired social outcomes**



Cultural Congruence

- **Major political issue is whether the democratic transitions in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and East Asia that began in the early 90's can be sustained.**
- **Democracies create a satisfied and democratic public or political culture leads to democratic political system.**



Consensual Political Culture

- **Citizens tend to agree on the appropriate means of making political decisions and agree on the major problems facing the society and how to solve them**



Conflictual Political Culture

- **Citizens are sharply divided often on both the legitimacy of the regime and solutions to major problems**
 - **Political subcultures- citizens may have sharply different views on at least some critical political matter such as boundaries nature regime or correct ideology**



Political Socialization

- **Direct and Indirect Socialization**
 - **Direct-** involves the explicit communication of info, values, or feelings towards politics
 - **Indirect-** when political views are inadvertently molded by our experiences
- **Socialization continues throughout individual's life**
- **Unifying or divisive patterns**
 - **Unifying:** example international conflict which brings a country together
 - **Divisive:** example subcultures



Agents of Political Social

- **The Family**
 - **Participation and family decision making can increase a child's sense of political competence**
- **Schools**
 - **Provide children with knowledge of the political world and their role in it**
 - **Reinforce affection for the system**



Religious Institutions

- **Religious Values and Public policy overlap**
 - **Major impact on society and politics of countries as diverse as US, India, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, Pakistan, Algeria, and Nigeria**



Peer Groups

- **Important social units that shape political attitudes**
- **Motivates or pressure them to conform to attitudes or behavior accepted by group**



Mass Media

- **Newspapers, radio, television, magazines play an important role in internationalizing attitudes and values around the globe**
- **Also convey the major values on which a society agrees**
- **The media presents a single point of view, and a party activity reinforce that perspective by directly involving the citizen**