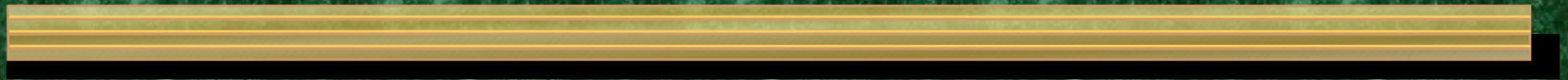


Interest Articulation



What is Interest Articulation?

- Interest Articulation: Citizens and social groups expressing their needs and demands to the government.
- In larger political systems individuals working together as a formal interest group are a prime tool in promoting political interests.

Citizen Action

- Forms of citizen interest articulation:
- Voting in elections=modest pressure, unfocused
- Informal group, social movement= Light pressure
- Direct contact= Low pressure
- Protest Activity=High pressure

Importance of Elections

- Elections perform many functions in addition to expression of needs:
- Aggregation of political interest
- Recruitment of political elites
- Socialization of political values and preferences through the campaign process

Voting

- Citizens in Europe and Russia tend to vote in greater numbers than citizens in the U.S.
- Lack of voter turnout in U.S. does not necessarily mean voter apathy, as the U.S. has a much higher percentage of people who worked for a party/candidate, signed a petition, or tried to persuade others on how to vote.

Coercive Access Channels & Tactics



- Collective Acts of violence stem from the character of society.
- Frustration that breeds anger stems from **deprivation**, “a discrepancy between people’s expectations about their ... conditions and the degree to which they think they can attain these (Ted Robert Gurr).”

Riots



Los Angeles, April 1992 (CNN)

- Most common outburst of anger is a riot; not always a useless spasm of violence caused by one event.
- Ex: LA Riots of 1992: was “sparked” by Rodney King, but was a release of years of frustration.
- Brought to light numerous problems.

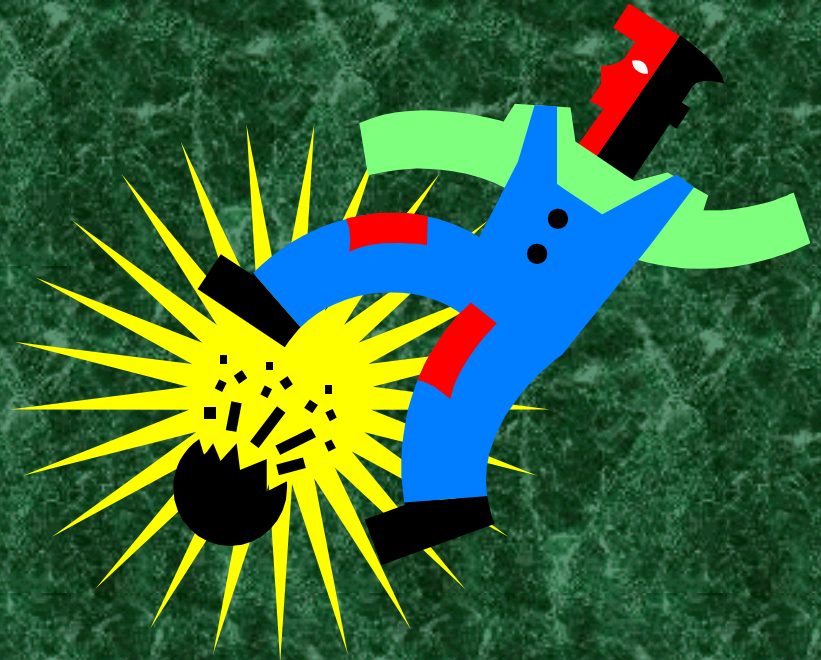
Strikes

- Strikes: mostly used by labor unions but when used by other interest groups, results are mixed.
- Strikes in late 1980's brought down communist govts. in Eastern Europe, but student strikes in Korea in 1970's and 1980's had little effect.



Political Terror Tactics

- Extreme acts of violence (assassinations, bombings, etc.) used by groups to “change the rules of the political game”.
- Rarely successful because it never attracts enough public sympathy.
- Can sometimes destroy a democratic regime
- Ex: Palestine/Israel, Northern Ireland & IRA



Interest Group Systems

- Connections between interest groups and government policymakers
- Groups have influence on laws that are made, both officially and unofficially
- Three types of group systems: Pluralist, Corporatist, and controlled

Pluralist Group Systems

- Multiple groups represent a single interest
- Membership isn't required and is limited
- Groups are loose and decentralized
- Clear separation between groups and the government
- Ex: US, Japan, France



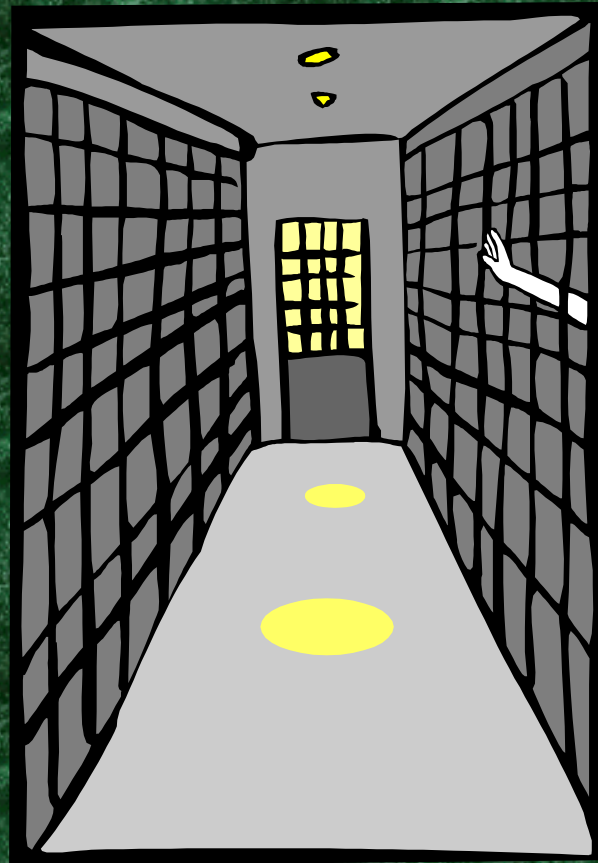
Corporatist Group Systems

- A single peak association usually represents each social interest
- Membership is compulsory and usually universal
- Peak associations are usually centrally organized
- Often systematically involved in making and implementing policy
- Ex: Sweden, Austria, Norway



Control Group System

- Single group for each social sector
- Membership often compulsory
- Hierarchally organized
- Controlled by the government or its agents
- Groups exist to facilitate government control



Channels of Political Access

Legitimate:

- Voting
- Bargaining
- Promises of support
- Personal ties (ex: friends, family)
- Mass media
- Lobbying
- Political parties
- Government Bureaucracies

Illegitimate

- Violence
- Intimidation

Interest Group Development



- Democratic development requires some form of interest groups to express needs of groups.
- Some countries, because of years of heavy political control, have a hard time forming interest groups. (Ex: Eastern Europe)

Interest Group Development Cont.



- Groups that oppose ideals don't always balance out (ex: NRA trumps small gun control groups).
- In Third World Countries, poorer class rarely has interest groups.
- In advanced democracies (US, UK, Japan) fewer people are involved in the political system than in years past.

Anomic Groups

- Anomic groups – generally spontaneous groups that form suddenly when many individuals respond similarly to frustration, disappointment, or other strong emotions
- Wildcat Strikes – spontaneous strike actions by local workers, not organized actions by national unions
- -examples of anomic groups are: LA riot in 1992, because the groups dispersed after the protest ended

Nonassociational Groups

- Rarely well organized because activity is episodic but different from anomic groups because they are based on common interests of ethnicity, religion, or kinship
- More continuity than anomic groups
- Collection action problems – “free riders” are examples of problems because they share the success of a collective group effort by do not participate

Institutional Groups

- Institutional Groups are formal and have other political or social functions in addition to interest articulation
- The influence of the groups is usually derived from the strength of their primary organizational base --- union members or affiliated businesses
- Nonpolitical institutional groups can also become involved in the political process

Associational Groups

- Associational groups – formed explicitly to represent the interests of a particular group
- These organizations have orderly procedures for formulation interests and demands, they usually employ a full-time professional staff

Civil Society

- Civil society – a society in which people are involved in a social and political interactions free of state control or regulation
- AS political and economic conditions become interdependent across nations, there is also increasing attention directed toward the development of a global civil society to parallel these political and economic developments