

Outline Topic 1

I. What is the purpose of Government?

A. What 'Things' SHOULD Government Do/ What Should it NOT Do?

- **National Defense?**
Protect us from Invasion?
Stop Genocide in Other Countries?
Overthrow Bad Regimes?

- **Police?**
Murder
Robbery
Speeding
Red Tags for Noise

- **Promote Economic Growth?**
Stabilize Banks in Crisis
Subsidize Ethanol
Rebuild Hurricane Damage?

- **Provide Free Education?**
College?
Brain Surgeon?
- **Provide Roads, Bridges?**
- **Provide Clean Water, Air?**
- **Subsidize Housing**
Poor?
Rich?
- **Provide Welfare**
Poor? Orphans?
Corporations?

Provide Health Care?
Retirement?

B. Public vs. Private Responsibilities

- **Should Government confine itself to its Public Responsibilities and not “interfere” in Private matters?**
- **But What is Private and What is Public**

C. How Do We Distinguish Between Public and Private?

- **Public Goods -- Something of value that is shared by all individuals in a group (i.e. cannot be denied to any individuals) regardless of their contribution to achieving that value.**
- **Efficiency -- “Cheaper by the Dozen”**

Abraham Lincoln: “ The legitimate object of govt is to do for . . . the people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do, at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves.”

II. How we decide?

Politics is the process and Government is the mechanism for deciding:

- A. who gets what, when, and how -- and who should (Laswell)**
- B. Authoritative allocation of values for society (Easton)**

III. Power vs. Authority -- the Central Tension in Politics

- A. Political Power = the ability to make decisions for society**
- B. Political Authority/Legitimacy = the right to make decisions for society**
- C. Example: Government vs the Mafia**

IV. Sources of Authority/Legitimacy (Max Weber)

A. Traditional

- **Monarchy**
- **Tribal Rituals**

B. Charismatic

- **Divine Revelation**
- **Gifted Leader (Washington, Lenin, Castro? Hitler??)**

C. Rational/Legal

- **Rule of Law**
- **Democracy**
- **Republicanism**

D. What type of Legitimacy is Best?

V: Logic of Democracy (John Stuart Mill)

- **No possibility for agreement on Truth**
- **Therefore, individuals must be able to pursue own truths.**
- **Inevitability of conflict as individuals pursue their own conflicting truths**
- **Government created to revolve this conflict but how?**
- **Lacking TRUTH-- Government must follow principle of “Greatest Good for Greatest number”**
- **This requires:**
 - + **political equality**
 - + **universal participation**
 - + **majority rule**
 - + **democratic citizens**

VI: Democratic Citizenship

A. Assumptions

- **Active**
- **Informed**
- **Tolerant**
- **Rational**

B. American Citizens Have Never Fulfilled Assumptions

- **Apathetic and inactive**
- **Poorly Informed**
- **Intolerant**
- **Non-Rational (inconsistent in beliefs and actions)**

VII. Revisionist Theories of Democracy

A. Elite Democracy

1. Empirical Assumptions

(Empirical?)

- **Political Power is exercised by political elites**
- **Political Authority/Legitimacy is based on Accountability (Elites are elected by the public)**
- **Multiple elites compete for public support**
- **Limited Indirect Citizen Participation**
- **Elites are more active, informed, tolerant and rational than the public**

2. Normative Conclusions:

- **Elite Democracy is “more democratic” than Classical Democracy**
- **Substantive vs Procedural conception of Democracy**
- **Government must be partially insulated from public passion, intolerance, and ignorance**
- **Republicanism**

B. Ruling Elites: The Dark, Undemocratic Side of Elitism

Empirical Assumptions:

- **Single homogeneous elite**
- **Small Group of Elites**
- **Elite Conspiracy not competition**
- **Broad Unlimited Elite Power**
- **No Upward Mobility**
- **Only Symbolic Participation for Public in Politics**

Normative Assumptions

- **NONE – No one Advocates this model.**

C. Comparing Democratic vs Ruling Elite Theories

Democratic Elite

Multiple (pluralistic) Elites

Relatively Large Elite Group

Elite Competition

Limited and Narrow Power

Limited Upward Mobility

Limited & Indirect Participation

Authority provided by Elite Comp

Power Based on Office

Normative & Empirical Theory

Ruling Elitism

Single homogeneous elite

Small Elite Group

Elite Conspiracy

Unlimited Broad Power

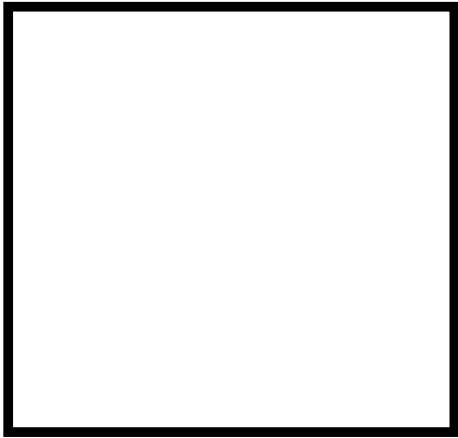
No Upward Mobility

Symbolic Participation

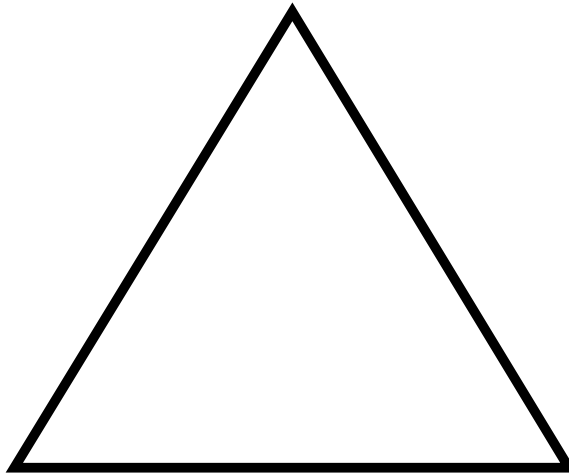
No Political Authority

Power based on Money

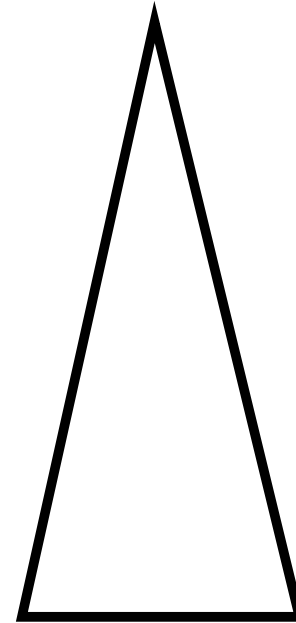
Empirical Theory Only



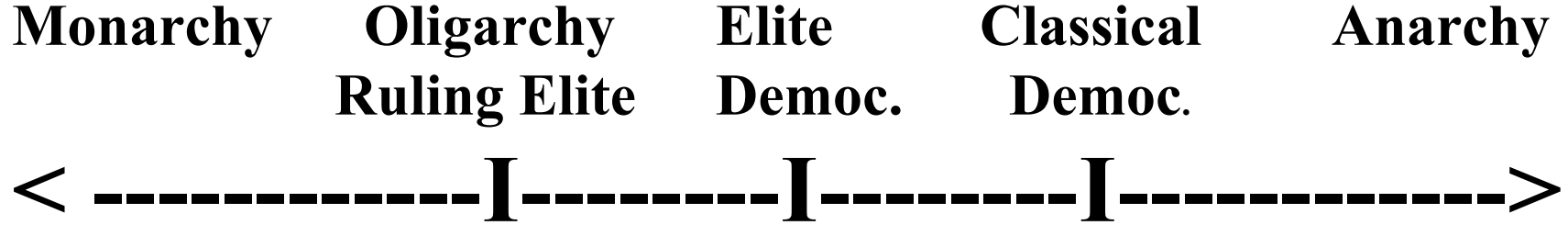
**CLASSICAL
DEMOCRACY**



**ELITE
DEMOCRACY**



**RULING
ELITE**



USA
Historically
[_____]