

IR 200 Politics of Authoritarian Regimes

Instructor: Shu Yu

Class Location: HYLAN 105

Class Lectures: MW 10:25-11:40 AM

Office Hours: Monday, 14:00-15:00 and by appointment

Office: Harkness 101

Email: syu26@ur.rochester.edu

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/shuyuhp/>

Course Description:

In *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992), Francis Fukuyama argued that liberal democracies may become the final form of human government. However, two decades later, 1/3 of the regimes on earth are still authoritarian. Some countries went through democratization, such as Spain after the death of Francisco Franco. But others remained authoritarian, such as North Korea. This course provides an introduction to authoritarian regimes and covers: 1) the different types of authoritarian regimes, which range from personalistic dictatorships to new forms where a variety of actors are institutionally represented (e.g., militants, monarchists, regime-party, etc.); 2) the conditions for authoritarian regimes to survive, function, and be accountable; and 3) a comparison between democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes. Students are expected to complete oral and written assignments which are designed to help them develop their problem solving, writing and presentation skills.

Required Text:

Acemoglu, D., and J. Robinson (2006). *Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship*. Cambridge University Press.

Svolik, Milan W. (2012). *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Weekly reading material is assigned in the Syllabus.

Course requirements:

For this course, it is essential to complete the required reading. Discussion will be a big portion of each session, and students will be expected to discuss the readings for the day listed on the syllabus. Each student is required to write a research paper on a authoritarian regime by their choice. Grading will be as follows: 20% in-class presentation, 20% final presentation, 50% paper, and 10% class participation. The in-class presentation is assigned in the syllabus

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:¹

Course Outline

Introduction (Jan-14)

Dictatorship: Concepts and Measures (Jan 19-21)

- Svolik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.
- Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.
- *Cheibub, Jose Antonio, Jennifer Gandhi and James R. Vreeland. 2010. *Dictatorship and Democracy Revisited*. *Public Choice* 143(1-2): 67-101.
- *Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright and Erica Frantz. 2014. *Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set*. *Perspectives on Politics*. Forthcoming.
- *Diamond, Larry. 2002. Thinking about hybrid regimes. *Journal of Democracy*, 13(2):2135.

Case studies (Jan 26-28)

- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1
- *Davila, Jerry. 2013. *Dictatorship in South America*. Wiley-Blackwell.

+++In-class presentation (Jan 28)+++.

The Economic Origin of Dictatorship and Democracy (Feb 2-11)

- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2 and 3.
- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A. 2006. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. NY: Cambridge University Press. pp.92-109, 118-151.

¹Recommended readings are denoted with *. When listed reading materials are technically difficult, students only need to scan through them to get the general idea. Other reading materials may be added or dropped later.

Theories of Authoritarian Politics (Feb 16-18)

- The Anatomy of Dictatorship, in Svobik, Milan W. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Smith, Alastair, Siverson, Randolph M., and Morrow, James D. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapter 1-2

Repression and Protest (Feb 23-25)

- Kuran, Timur. 1991. Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989. *World Politics*, 44:748.
- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A. 2005. *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

Case study: The Arab Spring (Mar 2)

+++In-class presentation (Mar 2)+++.

Email the research topic/subject of your final paper to the instructor.

The Emergence of Personal Authoritarian Rule (Mar 4)

- Svobik, Milan W. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Pages 53-63 and 75-81 in Chapter 3

Family Dynasties (Mar 16-18)

- *Yu, Shu and Geomans, Hein. 2014. "Passing Leadership through the Family Tie", mimeo
- Besley, T. and Reynal-Querol, M. 2013. "Selection via Dynasties: Theory and Evidence". Working Paper

Case study: Family Dynasties (Mar 23)

+++In-class presentation (Mar 23)+++.

Coups d'etat and Military Dictatorships (Mar 25-Apr 1)

- Wright, Thomas C. 2001. *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*. Westport: Praeger. Chapter 9
- Yu, S. 2014. "Political Stability and Leader Selection". Working Paper.
- Svobik, Milan W. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Pages 123-138, 148-153, and 159 in Chapter 5.
- *Geddes, Barbara, Erica Frantz and Joseph Wright. 2014. Military Rule. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 17(1): Forthcoming.

Final Paper Meeting I: Apr 6

Dominant party rule (Apr 8)

- Why Authoritarian Parties? The Regime Party as an Instrument of Cooptation and Control, in Svobik, Milan W. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.
- *Greene, Kenneth. 2010. The Political Economy of Authoritarian Single-Party Dominance. *Comparative Political Studies* 43(7): 807-834.

Case study: China (Apr 13-15)

- Malesky, Edmund, Regina Abrami and Yu Zheng. 2011. Institutions and Inequality in Single-Party Regimes: A Comparative Analysis of Vietnam and China. *Comparative Politics* 43(4): 409-427.
- Li, Yuan, Yu, Shu and Zhang, Yongjing. 2014. "The Successors Dilemma in Authoritarian Regimes: The Role of Social Mobilisation "

Institutions (Apr 20-22)

- Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3
- Svobik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4.
- *Gandhi, Jennifer and Ellen Lust. 2009. Elections Under Authoritarianism. *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 403-422.

Economic Development in Dictatorships (Apr 27)

- Jong-A-Pin, R. and S. Yu. 2010. Do Coup Leaders Matter? Leadership Change and Economic Growth in Politically Unstable Countries, KOF Working Paper no. 252 ETH Zurich, Switzerland.
- Jones, Benjamin F. and Olken, Benjamin A. 2006. Do leaders matter? National leadership and growth since World War II. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120(3):835-864.

Final Paper Presentations (Apr 29)