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DIGITAL GOVERNMENT I WEEK 2: DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS (PT 1)

Jan 20, 2009

Perspectives from comparative politics:

- ‘democratic transitions’ literature (80s-90s)
  (democratic development / reversals in Latin America, Africa, East and Southeast Asia; post-Soviet transitions)

Some key points:

- Multidirectionality and dynamism of democratic change (against either/or classifications);
- Linkages between domestic and transnational process (‘waves of democracy’ debate)
- General categories, typologies, or trajectories of democratic change

Definitions of democracy (Charles Tilly, *Democracy)*

- Def'n: "A regime is democratic to the degree that political relations between the state and its citizens feature **broad, equal, protected** and **mutually binding consultation.**" (14)
- **Breadth:** extension of rights of participation to steadily larger segments of the population
- **Equality:** collapsing / equalizing the categories of citizenship and forms of participation vis-à-vis the state
- **Protection:** against arbitrary exercise of state power
- **Mutually binding consultation:** clear and enforceable obligations on part of state in response to recognized consultative processes

Source (Quote): Charles Tilly. *Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007: 14.

State capacity (Charles Tilly, *Democracy*)

- **State capacity:** "the extent to which interventions of state agents in existing non-state resources, activities, and interpersonal connections alter existing distributions of those resources, activities, and interpersonal connections as well as relations among those distributions" (*the **efficacy** of democratic politics*)
  (e.g. the 'hollowing out' of the state – decision-making power moves 'up,' 'down' or 'outside' of the state, taking effective decision-making power out of the space of (democratic) public politics)

Source (Quote): Charles Tilly. *Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Typologies of democratic regimes

What Is Democracy? 19

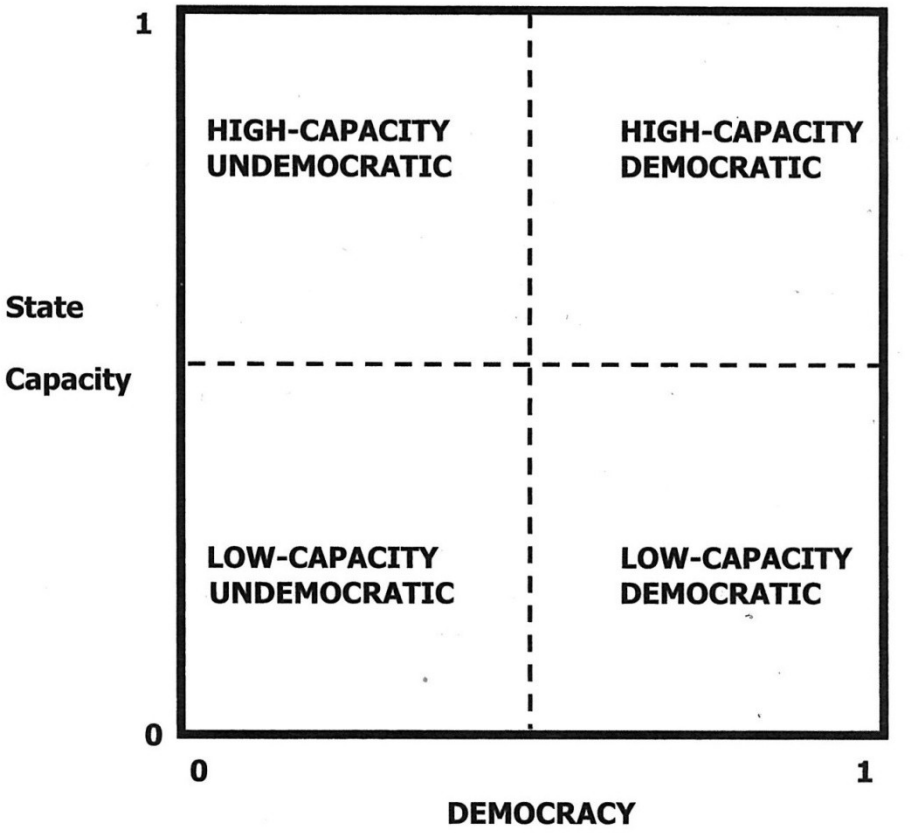

FIGURE 1-2. Crude Regime Types

Source: Undetermined

Dynamics of democratic regimes

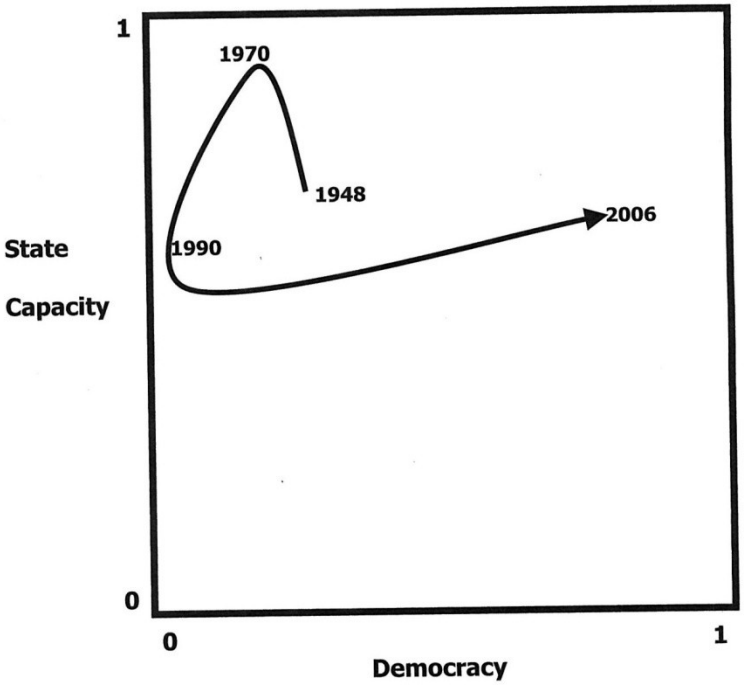

FIGURE 5-1. South African Regimes, 1948–2006

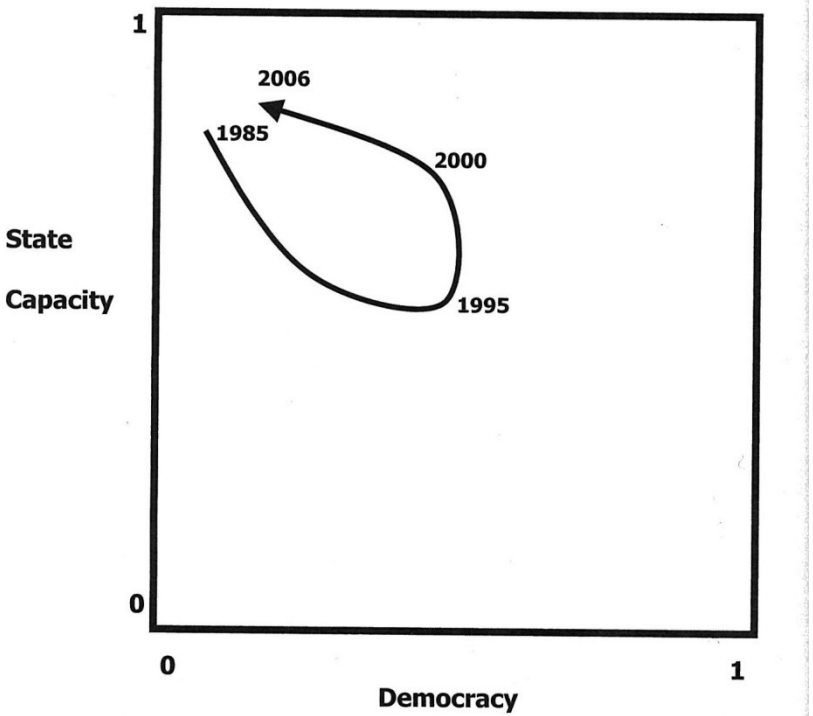

FIGURE 6-1. Russian Regimes, 1985–2006

Source: Undetermined

Dynamics of democratic regimes

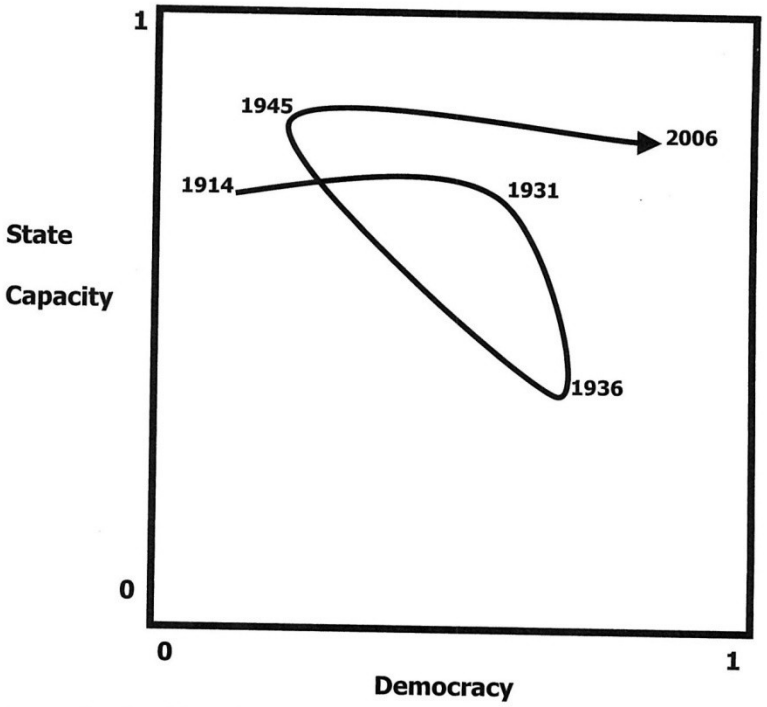

FIGURE 6-3. Spanish Regimes, 1914–2006

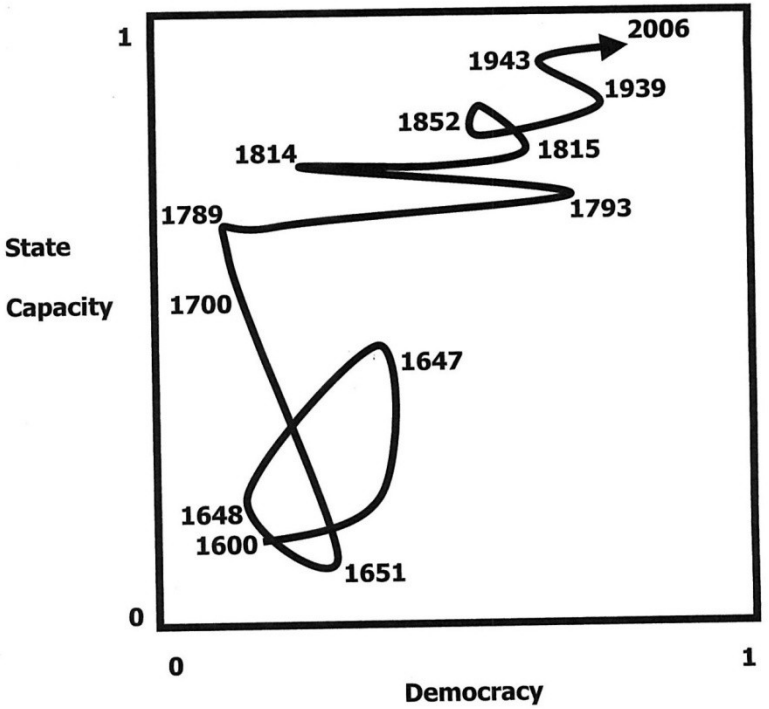

FIGURE 2-1. Trajectory of French National Regimes, 1600–2006

Source: Undetermined

Trajectories/pathways of democratic change

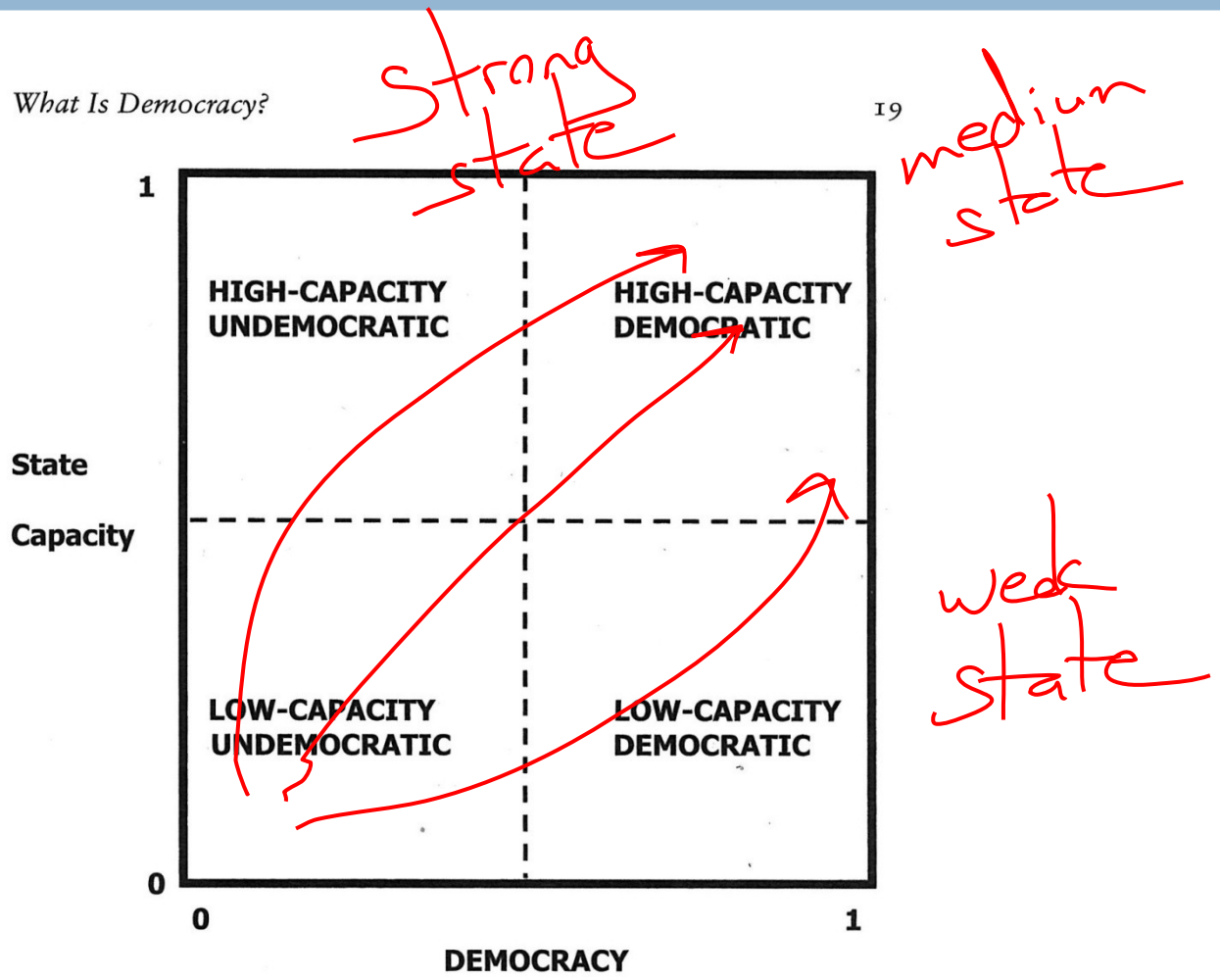

FIGURE 1-2. Crude Regime Types

Source: Undetermined

Information and democratization / de-democratization

- Tilly's def'n: "A regime is democratic to the degree that political relations between the state and its citizens feature **broad, equal, protected** and **mutually binding consultation.**" (14)
- **Breadth**: extension of rights of participation to steadily larger segments of the population
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Source (Quote): Charles Tilly. *Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007: 14.

Typologies / tensions of deliberative democracy
(Gutmann & Thompson)

instrumental vs. expressive

procedure vs. substance

consensual vs. pluralist

representative vs. participatory

government vs. civil society

domestic vs. international/cosmopolitan

Three Models of Democratic Deliberation (McAfee)

Preference-Based Model	Grounded in economics / social choice theory; deliberation corrects information problems that prevent: 1: transformation and stabilization of individual preferences, and 2: aggregation of individual into collective preference; transformation from 'self-regarding' to 'other-regarding' individual
Rational Proceduralist Model	Grounded in normative political theory (arguments around justice (e.g. Rawls) and legitimacy (Habermas)); moral claims to be couched in rationalist debate, language and reasons knowable to all (the 'reason-giving requirement'); the better argument wins, leading to assent and legitimacy of collective decisions.
Integrative Model	Grounded in American pragmatist social theory (emphasis on what works vs. what's true); collective working through of consequences of collective choice, integrating heterogeneous views and publics.

~~~ questions and discussion? ~~~
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DG 1 Group Assignment 2:

[scribe: moderator: group members:]

Picking ONE of the examples of National Issue Forums, deliberative polling, or citizen juries, analyze the potential advantages and barriers, and describe one or more strategies, for extending this practice into online space. (Your example could be either wholly online, or some sort of in-space / online hybrid). What specific deliberative affordances or limits does your proposed project enhance or address? (be specific – draw on Gutmann & Thompson, McAfee, etc. where useful)