
Jackson, Steven J.

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT I
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW
## Deliberation: some historical trajectories

*(Gastil & Keith)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Deliberative trajectory</th>
<th>Key examples / conditions / theorists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Progressive era (1890s-1940)         | Expanding               | **Examples:** Open forum movement (Federal Forum Project), settlement houses, public panels  
**Conditions:** growth of continental-scale economy and society; mass immigration & urbanization  
**Theorists:** John Dewey, Jane Addams                                                                 |
| Mid-century ‘mass society’ (1940s-1960s) | Contracting            | **Examples:** decline / abandonment of public consultation models, interest group politics / aggregative models, ‘thin’ pluralism  
**Conditions:** Cold War secrecy, McCarthyism, urban restructuring (suburbanization), corporate and government bureaucracies, expertise, think tanks, interest group politics, mass media  
**Theorists & critics:** Walter Lippmann, C. Wright Mills, David Riesman (‘the lonely crowd’) |
| ‘Deliberative renaissance’ (1970s-??) | Expanding               | **Examples:** deliberative polling, national issue forums, participatory rule-making, web-based fora and movements (move-on.org)  
**Conditions:** demassification of media, Internet, globalization & multiculturalism  
**Theorists:** Jane Mansbridge, Benjamin Barber, Jurgen Habermas, Robert Putnam |
Explaining historical change (Gastil & Keith)

- economic and spatial scale & structure
- (exogenous) cultural change
- institutional and political change
- technological infrastructure (information & communication)

Questions:
- Weighting & interactional effects?
- Causality (causes or correlations?)
- (uni)directionality?
Why deliberate? (Button & Ryfe)

- **Legitimacy** – deliberation produces more legitimate decisions (improving acceptability, adherence, etc.)
- **Efficacy** – deliberation produces objectively better decisions (more sound, rational, based on better information, etc.) (an instrumentalist justification)
- **Learning** – the process of deliberation promotes important kinds of individual and collective learning (incl. preference formation and transformation)
- **Emergence / public discovery and transformation** – the process of deliberation builds and enforces norms and values of civic / public culture (‘calls a public into being’)

Limits, pathologies, and challenges  (Button & Ryfe)

- The deliberation industry
- Costs (money, time, efficiency)
- Selection, manipulation, and the management of outcomes
- Consultation without power (participation as enrollment)
DG 1 Group Assignment 1: Consensus Definitions: What is Democracy?

A country is *more* democratic (moves *toward* democracy) to the extent it: (a, b, c, etc.)

A country is *less* democratic (moves *away from* democracy) to the extent it: (a, b, c, etc.)