
Jackson, Steven J.

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DIGITAL GOVERNMENT I
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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## Deliberation: some historical trajectories (Gastil & Keith)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Deliberative trajectory</th>
<th>Key examples / conditions / theorists</th>
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</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)
Democracy is...

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.)