

Democracy (2): Democratization

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Definition of Democracy:

- ▶ A regime is democratic to the degree that political relations between the state and its citizens feature broad, equal, protected and mutually binding consultation
- ▶ a continuing process that always remains incomplete and perpetually runs the risk of reversal (democratization and de-democratization)

Three Structural processes of democratization

- ▶ integration of particular trust networks into public politics
- ▶ insulation of public politics from categorical inequalities
- ▶ elimination or neutralization of autonomous, coercion-controlling power centers

Trust Network

- ▶ **ramified interpersonal connections**
(Interpersonal connections of strong tie)
- ▶ So long as they remain entirely segregated from the political regime, trust networks constitute obstacles to democratization
- ▶ Democratization becomes possible when trust networks integrate significantly into regimes, and thus motivate their members to engage in democratic collective enterprises

Categorical inequality

- ▶ Categorical inequality means organization of social life around boundaries separating whole sets of people who differ collectively in their life chances
- ▶ gender, race, caste, ethnicity, nationality, and religion and social class
- ▶ Any democratization process depends not necessarily on diminution of categorical inequality but on insulation of public politics from categorical inequality

Autonomous power centers

- ▶ Autonomous power centers operate outside the control of public politics and outside of regular citizen-state interactions
- ▶ To the extent that power centers, especially those controlling autonomous coercive means, remain detached from public politics, democratization remains difficult or impossible
- ▶ When they are absorbed or tamed by public politics, democratization becomes possible

