PLS 401: SENIOR SEMINAR Roger C. Lowery, Ph. D. Part IV: The Apparatus of Governance Ch. 11: Parties: A Linking & Leading Mechanism in Politics

1860-1896

1896-1932

1932-1968

1968-

I. **Political movements**:

- A. *Definition*: an unorganized (or only loosely or informally organized) group of individuals who share a common set of interests or grievances and who use collective action to further their interests
- B. Examples: class, race, ethnicity, gender, region, etc.
- C. Political movements get organized as:
 - 1. **Political interest group**: an organized group of people who seek to advance shared political interests by influencing government policies from the *outside* through lobbying, litigating, electioneering, etc.
 - 2. **Political party**: an organized group (*the party organization*) of individual voters (*the party in the electorate*) that seek to further their common political interests by influencing government from the inside (*the party in government*)

II. Political parties

- A. **Origins**: <u>http://arts.bev.net/roperldavid/politics/congress.htm</u>
 - 1. Spread of democracy in 18th c.
 - 2. Periods of two-party competition in the U.S. (the dominant party is in *italics*)
 - a. Federalists/National-republicans v. *Anti-federalists/Democratic-republicans* 1800-1824 *Federalists* were dominant from 1788-1799
 - b. National-republicans/Whig Party v. Democratic Party (neither dominant) 1824-1856
 - c. Republican Party v. Democratic Party
 - d. *Republican Party* v. Democratic Party
 - e. Republican Party v. Democratic Party
 - f. Republican Party v. Democratic Party (neither dominant)

B. Functions

- 1. Mobilize mass support
 - a. For the party's candidates at election time
 - b. For the regime at crisis times
 - c. Against a regime
 - (1) Colonial authority
 - (2) Occupying power
- 2. *Recruit leaders* & socialize (inculcate values)
 - a. Typically through the ranks in *more disciplined party systems* (e.g., U.K.)
 - b. More commonly from the outside in *less disciplined party systems* (e.g., U.S. business, education, military, sports, entertainment)
- 3. *Provide a source of long-term political identity or community* in a fluid political world of short-term forces Figures 11.1 & 11.2
- 4. Provide a channel of control
 - a. Over party professionals & activists
 - b. Over rank-and-file party members
 - c. Over other elites (the armed forces, religions, universities, mass media, business & professions) in one-party states

C. Party structure

- 1. *Party organization*: discipline tools
 - a. Control over nominations & money in elections
 - b. As well as patronage & preferments between elections
- 2. Party in the electorate
- 3. Party in government

D. Party finance

- 1. Public funding
- 2. Member dues
- 3. Bribes & kickbacks
- 4. Donations from individuals & interest groups
- 5. Profits from business enterprises (e.g., newspapers & banks)
- 6. Subsidies from foreign countries
- E. Party systems (the set of all parties in a state)

1. Non-competitive

- a. One-party
 - (1) Found in autocratic states of the right or left
 - (2) Major examples
 - (a) Nazi Party in Germany, 1933-45
 - (b) Communist Party in U.S.S.R., 1917-91
- b. Dominant-party
 - (1) Often evolve from independence movements
 - (a) PRI in Mexico, 1920-97
 - (b) Congress Party in India, 1947-77
 - (c) Labour Party in Israel, 1948-77
 - (d) African National Congress Party in South Africa, 1990-
 - (2) Sometimes fall due to corruption (e.g., the conservative *Liberal Democratic Party* in Japan, 1955-2007)
- 2. **Competitive** (Maurice Duverger, the French political sociologist, 1st explained what caused each to evolve)
 - a. Two-party
 - (1) *Cause*: single-member, winner-take-all electoral
 - (2) *Result*: two large umbrella or brokerage parties that are internally heterogeneous & therefore less ideologically & programmatically distinct
 - (3) Examples: U.S., U.K., Austria
 - (4) Exception: regionally based parties, e.g., Canada
 - (a) Liberal Party, base in Ontario
 - (b) Conservative Party, base in Alberta
 - (c) Bloc Québécois Party, operates only in Quebec
 - (d) *New Democratic Party*, least regional in support with the most distinctive policy platform
 - b. Multi-party
 - (1) Cause: multi-member, proportional-representation electoral systems
 - (2) *Result*: more than two & typically smaller parties that are more internally homogeneous & therefore more ideologically & programmatically distinct
 - (3) Examples: most democracies around the world
- F. The German political sociologist Robert Michels' Iron Law of Oligarchy
 - 1. *Prediction*: all forms of organization, regardless of how democratic or autocratic they may be at the start, will eventually and inevitably develop into oligarchies with powerful bureaucracies.
 - 2. Examples:
 - a. Democratic parties: Labour & Greens in European democracies
 - b. Autocratic parties: Nazi & Communist Parties in Germany, USSR, & China