

I. Untitled introduction: **political interest groups**A. *Key-term definitions:*

1. **Political movement:** 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
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*)
3. **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.

B. *Salience of politics* to interest groups

1. Some are organized *solely* to pressure government (e.g., single-issue pressure groups like pro-life and pro-choice organizations)
2. Others are organized primarily for other purposes but *sometimes* act as a political pressure group (e.g., business, professional, and labor groups)
3. Others *rarely or never* pressure government (e.g., many social groups, like bowling leagues)

C. *Distribution* of political interest groups

1. *Economic* are more numerous than *non-economic* Table 12.1 and *producer* are more common than *consumer*
2. Countries with *dispersed* political power (federal & presidential) have more political interest groups than countries with *concentrated* political power (unitary & parliamentary)
3. *Two-party* countries have more political interest groups than *multi-party* countries
4. *Democratic* countries have more political interest groups than *autocratic* countries

II. Interest groups and **representation**A. Unequal *organization* produces unequal representation (*producers* v. *consumers*)B. *Strategic geographic location* gives some cohesive interest groups greater influence (religious, racial, & ethnic minorities in the Democratic Party & Christian conservatives in the Republican Party)C. Unequal *resources* produces unequal representation

1. Money, education, social connections, leisure time
2. Business v. labor

D. Non-democratic interest-group leadership produces non-representative outcomes – **Robert Michels’ Iron Law of Oligarchy**E. *Selective incentives* for the rank-and-file members in an interest group give interest-group leaders opportunities to be nonrepresentativeF. *Intense minorities* can have greater influence than *apathetic majorities* (examples of such intense minorities include: the N.R.A. in the U.S. and religious fundamentalists in both Israel & many Arab countries)III. **Types** of interest groupsA. Economic (sectoral) – **James Madison**, *Federalist Papers*, #10, “... the most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distribution of property.”

B. Institutional (military, public education, non-profit)

C. Promotional (single-group or single-issue)

IV. **Tactics** of interest groups

A. **Vary** with resources & opportunities

B. **Types**

1. Control of scarce information or expertise
2. Electoral activity
 - a. Financial contributions
 - b. Get-out-the-vote drives
3. Control of economic power
 - a. Labor - strike
 - b. Business - relocation
 - c. Civil rights - boycotts
4. Public-information campaigns
 - a. Direct PR campaigns
 - b. Indirect, subtle manipulation of media agenda
5. Direct action
 - a. Civil disobedience (**James Farmer** & the CORE Freedom Rides, **M.L. King, Jr.**, & the SCLC Montgomery bus boycott)
 - b. Violence (**Huey Newton** & **Bobby Seale**, Black Panther Party)
6. Litigation (**W.E.B. Du Bois**, **Thurgood Marshall**, & the NAACP)

V. Patterns of organized interest-group activity

A. *Pluralism*: a system in which interest groups compete to influence government from the *outside*

1. Most advanced in the U.S.
2. But there are gross inequalities between interests

B. *Cooperative neocorporatism*: a system in which interest groups have more of a formal role *within* government in the making and administration of policy

1. Most advanced in Scandinavian countries
2. But depends a great deal on a spirit of cooperation & compromise
3. And tends to institutionalize the *status quo*

C. *State neocorporatism*: a system in which the regime in power manipulates interest groups to further the regime's interests (e.g., Italy in the 1920s & 30s, Brazil in the 1970s & Argentina in the 1940s & 50s)

VI. Examples

A. France

1. Most interest groups are very fragmented and periodically morph into volatile political movements
2. Agriculture is most effectively organized and influential

B. Japan

1. Prior to early 1990s an *iron triangle* – corporatism without labor
 - a. An elite, civil-service bureaucracy
 - b. Agriculture & business interest groups
 - c. Liberal Democratic Party
2. Since the early 1990s, more reform rhetoric than action