Globalization and The Politics of Democratic Class Compromise

This course explores the conditions for the emergence, maintenance and collapse of democratic, political economic compromises between social classes and how increased globalization since the mid-1970s affects the possibilities and terms for such compromises. It will examine different theories of such compromise including historical institutional, rational choice institutional and sociological, seek to understand their internal logics and their dynamics and explore their possible complementarities. We will look at these in the context of how globalization may affect the conditions for compromise and the terms on which it is reached. After some general studies devoted to these issues, the course will examine particular instances of the emergence of such compromises (e.g., democratic development and redemocratization), their maintenance (e.g., advanced industrial and developing countries), their breakdown (e.g., Weimar Republic, Third World coups), and, most centrally, their erosion in the context of globalization. It is an implicit premise of the course that it would be preferable if we could develop an understanding of class compromise that had micro-, although not necessarily rational choice, foundations.

Students in the course will be required to do some core readings done by all and will then be able to focus their attention on specific countries or areas of the world in which they are particularly interested. They are required to provide me with an indication of the country/area on which they will focus and an initial course-relevant bibliography by February 15. The specific assignments for the course are as follows:

1. Short critical essays (c.5 pages) discussing the weeks core readings and their relevance to the country/area of the student’s specialization. The student is encouraged to draw on specialized reading for these reports. Each student will have two such reports to do during the semester. They are to be completed and distributed to all students (preferably on email) in the course by 9 AM on the Monday before class. They should be read by all for the Tuesday seminar.

2. Each week one student will be charged to do a critical oral presentation of the week’s core readings. This presentation will generally follow my introductory lecture and will be meant to kick off the full discussion (10-15 minutes).

3. A seminar research paper on a theme relevant to the course as applied to the country/area of the student’s choice. The paper should be both theoretical and empirical and can be comparative or case specific, although the former is preferred. Papers on one country could well use longitudinal comparisons (comparative statics or dynamics).

Grade Calculation
Paper (70%); Reports (20%); Class participation (10%).
Topics and Readings

January 27: What Do We Mean by Democratic Class Compromise?

Adam Przeworski, Democracy and the Market, ch. 1.
Adam Przeworski, Capitalism and Social Democracy, Intro. and chs. 1, and 5.
S.M. Lipset, Political Man, chs. 2-3.

Feb. 3: Analytical Approaches to Compromise (I)

O. Williamson, The Economic Institutions of Capitalism, chs. 1-3.
Robert Axelrod, The Evolution of Cooperation, ch1, 8 and 9 (read 2 and 3 if you have no familiarity with Axelrod’s findings)
G. Tsebelis, Nested Games, chs. 1-4, 6

Feb. 10: Analytical Approaches to Compromise (II)

Jon Elster, The Cement of Society, chs. 6-7
Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelan and Frank Longstreth, eds., Structuring Politics, ch. 1.

Feb. 17: Historical Approaches to the Problem of Democratic Class Compromise

All read:
D. Bates and D. Lien, "A Note on Taxation, Development and Representative Government", Politics and Society 14:1

And

K. Polanyi, The Great Transformation OR
B. Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy OR
Ruth and David Collier, Shaping the Political Arena OR
P. Katzenstein, Small States in World Markets OR
G. Esping-Anderson, Politics Against Markets OR
A book of your selection, discussed with me.
Feb 24: Foundings and Breakdowns of Democratic Class Compromise: Europe and Latin America - Constitutions and Pacts (Note: For this week students are encouraged to substitute readings on their country/area for the reading options assigned.)

All read -
G. O'Donnell and P. Schmitter, Transitions From Authoritarian Rule: Tenative Conclusions About Uncertain Democracies
A. Przeworski, "Some Problems in the Study of the Transition to Democracy", in O'Donnell, Schmitter and Whitehead, eds., Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Comparative Perspectives
Juan Linz, Crisis, Breakdown and Reequilibration

And

Chapters on two cases from Europe and/or Latin America from the other volumes of the O'Donnell, Schmitter and Whitehead collection, Transitions from Authoritarian Rule.

Or

Chapters on two cases from Europe and/or Latin America from the aposite volumes of J. Linz and A. Stepan, eds., The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes

March 3: The Horizontal Structure of Democratic Class Compromise – Classes and the Relationships between them

A. Przeworski, Capitalism and Social Democracy, ch. 5.
P. Gourevitch, Politics in Hard Times, chs. 3 & 6.
L. Panitch, "The Development of Corporatism in Liberal Democracies".
P. Lange, "The Institutionalization of Concertation".

March 10: The Vertical Structure of Democratic Class Compromise: Relations within the Working Class

R. Hardin, Collective Action, chs. 10, 11, 12, 14

March 24: Varieties of Class Compromise
All read:

And: Choose to read about two countries from the following or readings of your choice. The purpose is to get a sense of the development and postwar equilibrium of macro political economic structures and processes of two democratic countries:

A. Boltho, ed., The European Economy: Growth and Crisis
G. Lehmbruch and P. Schmitter, Patterns of Corporatist Policy Making
P. Gourevitch, et. al., Unions and Economic Crisis: Britain, West Germany and Sweden, George Allen and Unwin, 1984

March 31: Globalization

Keohane and Milner, Internationalization and Domestic Politics, ch. 1.
Simmons and McKeown chapters in Kitschelt, Lange, Marks and Stephens (to be supplied)

April 7: Globalization and Domestic Politics


April 14: Globalization and Class Compromise (I)

April 21: Globalization and Class Compromise (II)

KLMS, “Conclusions” and selected chapters
Peter Lange and Lyle Scruggs. “Where Have All the Members Gone”, ms to be provided.