From Authoritarianism to Illiberal Democracies
D286

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Course Description and Objectives

This is a seminar on the «reverse waves» to democratic rule. In 1922, the coming to power of Mussolini in Italy marked the first «reverse wave» that by 1942 had reduced the number of democratic states. The triumph of the Allies in WWII and the consequent expansion of democratic rule were followed by a second «reverse wave» in the Soviet space, and dictatorships in Latin America, Southern Europe and elsewhere.

The triumph of liberal democracies in the Cold War is now threatened by a third «reverse wave» with the rise of illiberal democracies and the resuscitation of authoritarianism. This seminar will offer a broad taxonomy of authoritarian regimes in different times and will analyze the causes of this recurring phenomenon.

Assessment

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation and individual assignments (50%), and a take home final exam (50%). Students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate in the course and read the assigned readings before coming to class. Each student will be asked to write a research paper. They are expected to give oral presentations of their research papers. There will be a final exam on the topics discussed during the course.

Course Structure and Readings

1. Classification of Constitutions; Democracy and Oligarchy and Forms of Monarchy


   a. Foundations of State Power


   b. Foundations of Liberal Institutions


   c. Foundations of Economic Justice

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*.


2. Authoritarian Regimes


3. Fascism


4. Weimar Germany


5. Communism
   a. Communism in Theory and Practice

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848) *The Manifesto of the Communist Party*.

   b. Modern Variants of Communism


6. The Triumph of the Allies in WWII and the Second Wave of Democratization


7. The Second Reverse Wave to Authoritarianism (1960-1975)
   a. Coups d’états and Military Regimes


   b. Personalistic Dictatorships and Monarchical Regimes


9. Contemporary Challenges to Democratic Governments


10. Making Democracy Work  
   a. Social Norms, Political Culture and Growth


   b. Can Governments Manage Market Economics?

