Liberalization & Democratization

**Liberalization**
- more liberties exercised, less repression
- cannot change government

**Democratization**
- elections held
- government changes hands peacefully

**Consolidation**
- vaguely defined
- “deep, unquestioned, routinized commitment to democracy and its procedures at the elite and mass levels” (Diamond)
Types of Transitions

“Pacted” Transitions
- Regime and opposition elites negotiate how to “transit” to democracy (a pact)
  - Assures regime and state elites
  - Power-sharing arrangements
  - path to competitive elections
  - e.g., South Africa, 1990-1994

‘Revolutions’ from Below
- opposition groups mobilize and state apparatus fractures
  - public protests
  - military or security units refuse to repress
  - e.g., Philippines, 1983-1986

Transition from Above
- reformist regime elites initiate and push democratization
  - no ‘pact’ with opposition
  - e.g., Mexico, 2000
“Waves” of Democratization
- S. Huntington argues that democracy expands in “waves”
- Democracy ebbs after the wave

1\textsuperscript{st} wave: 1810-1922
2\textsuperscript{nd} wave: 1944-1957
3\textsuperscript{rd} wave: 1974- ?

What Causes Democratization?

Huntington’s Main Factors Contributing to 3\textsuperscript{rd} Wave
- legitimacy crises in authoritarian regimes
- economic growth
  - new educated middle-class demands greater rights and freedoms
  - increasing urbanization
- Catholic Church’s new political role
  - Church supported more progressive politics
- Changes in EU, US, and Soviet policies
  - EU and US began advocating and supporting pro-democracy movements in authoritarian states
- snowballing or demonstration effect
  - falling dominoes
**Virtually No-preconditions**
- elite must agree on the boundaries of the state
  - otherwise civil or int’l war results
- democratization is not dependent on economic growth
  - transitions at all income levels
  - *consolidation* is near certain above $6,055 per capita GNP in 1985 US$ using PPP system
- Liberalization *usually* precedes democratization, but the time-frame may be limited
- Political actors – state and regime elites and opposition elites – matter
  - Agents rather structures
  - Predictive failure of structural theories (oops)