GV101 Week 03: Varieties of Dictatorship
Questions to Consider

Teacher: Joe Greenwood

Email: j.greenwood3@lse.ac.uk

Office Hours (by appointment via the Student Hub):
Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30, CBG.4.13
Wednesdays, 14:30 – 15:30, CBG.4.13

Country Questions:

- When was your adopted country last a dictatorship and what type was it?
    - How and why did the transition from that dictatorship occur?

- Where does your adopted country currently fall on the two dimensions outlined by selectorate theory?

Essential Reading Questions:

1. What are the categories of dictatorship outlined by Clark, Golder, and Golder?
    a) Do you think they are mutually exclusive? Can you think of examples that are clear cut and ones that cross the boundaries?

2. According to Clark, Golder, and Golder, what are the two main problems confronting dictatorships, and what is the nature of each of these problems? And what is the dictator's dilemma, along with some possible solutions to it?

3. What are the main propositions of selectorate theory?
    a) How would you describe the selectorate and the winning coalition in each of the categories of dictatorship outlined by Clark, Golder, and Golder?
    b) Can you think of examples of countries with large and small selectorates, large and small winning coalitions, and thus differing loyalty norms?

4. What are the first and second institutional trenches that may be constructed by dictatorships according to Gandhi and Przeworski?
    a) What does it mean to underinstitutionalize, institutionalize optimally, or overinstitutionalize?
    b) What are the implications of institutionalization for regime survival?

5. How can Gandhi and Przeworski's article be reconciled with selectorate theory?

<u>Further Reading Questions:</u>

6. According to Gause, what are the three things that were overlooked by Middle East Studies scholars that can help us understand the Arab Spring?

7. What are the elements of a 'competitive authoritarian' regime, as outlined by Levitsky and Way?

8. What are the four areas of contestation that a 'competitive authoritarian' regime may have to sustain?

9. According to Magaloni, how do dictators solve credible commitment problems?
    a) How does this argument differ from that of Gandhi and Przeworski?
    b) And what function do multi-party elections serve in dictatorships?

<u>Essential Readings for Next Week:</u>

-   'What is Science?' chapter in William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder, *Foundations of Comparative Politics* (London, Sage Publications, 2019), pp. 13-31.

-   'Causal Thinking and Design of Research' chapter in W. Philips Shively, *The Craft of Political Research* (Boston, MA, Pearson, 2012), pp. 86-109.

<u>Further Readings for Consideration Next Week:</u>

-   John Gerring, 'What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good for?', *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 98, No. 2 (May, 2004), pp. 341-354.

-   Marcus Kreuzer, 'Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation', *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (May, 2010), pp. 369-392.