GV101
Introduction to Political Science
Week 13: Presidents, Ministers, and Parliaments

Classes, Monday 03 February 2020
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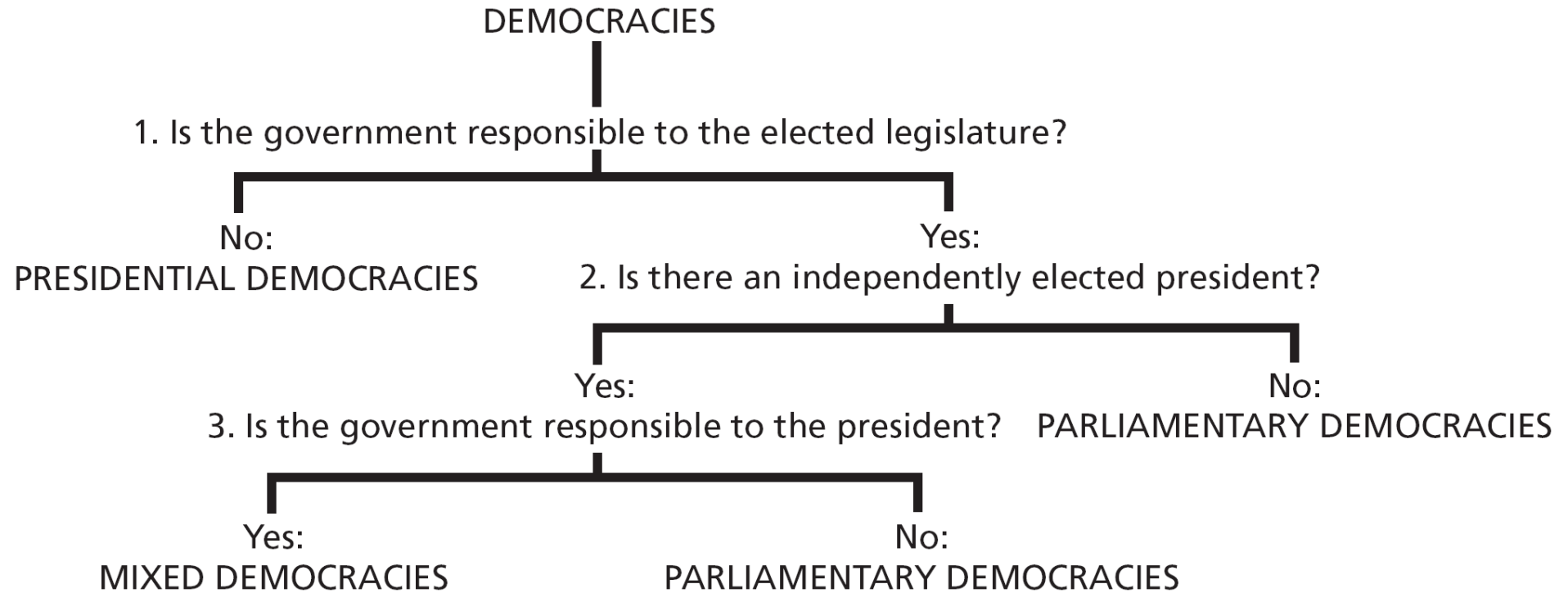Email: j.greenwood3@lse.ac.uk
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Essential Reading Overview

- As always, Clark, Golder, and Golder give an overview of many different concepts including legislative responsibility, various types of vote of no confidence, presidential / parliamentary / semi-presidential systems, portfolio and legislative coalitions, and the perils of presidentialism (see below).

- Linz thinks presidential systems are flawed for a whole host of reasons (the mandate given to the president, winner-takes-all elections, limits placed upon the president, rules of succession, dual legitimacy, and fixed terms) but particularly emphasises the idea that such systems often create an uncompromising leader in a system that expects compromise.

- Horowitz, with rhetorical flourishes, challenges Linz on the basis of case selection, his characterisation of presidentialism, diversity of presidential election systems, and the strengths of presidentialism.

- A contemporary example of the perils of presidentialism: Venezuela.

DEMOCRACIES

1. Is the government responsible to the elected legislature?

No:
PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRACIES

Yes:
2. Is there an independently elected president?

Yes:
3. Is the government responsible to the president?

No:
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES

Yes:
MIXED DEMOCRACIES

No:
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACIES

Source: Cheibub 2007, 35.

Dependent variable: cohesion score of a party in votes in a parliament, ranging from 0 to 1 (268 parties in 19 parliaments)

Independent variables
Intraparty Competition: open list electoral system
Federal: federal system
Confidence Vote: if government can ask for a confidence vote
Government Party: party is in government
Presidential: presidential system
Seat Share: no. of MPs of a party

Independent Variables	Model 1
Intraparty Competition	$-.10^{***}$
	(.03)
Federal	.04
	(.03)
Confidence Vote	$-.01$
	(.03)
Government Party	.12***
	(.05)
Government Party*Presidential	$-.17^{***}$
	(.06)
Seat Share	.03
	(.08)
Constant	.80***
	(.03)
N	268
Adj.R^2	.10

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