

GV101 Week 13: Presidents, Ministers, and Parliaments

Questions to Consider

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Office Hours (by appointment via the [Student Hub](#)):

Thursdays, 09:30 – 10:30, CBG.4.13

Thursdays, 14:30 – 15:30, CBG.4.13

Country Question:

- Does your adopted country have a presidential, parliamentary, or semi-presidential system (of democracy)?
 - How would you characterise the stability of democracy in your country?
 - What factors do you think have contributed to that (in)stability?

Essential Reading Questions:

1. What are the definitions of presidential, parliamentary, and semi-presidential systems provided by Clark, Golder, and Golder? Can you provide an example of each system?
 - a) Why are legislative responsibility and votes of no confidence important concepts for determining regime type?
 - b) Why do (democratic) monarchies always use parliamentary systems?
2. Linz argues that presidential systems are less sustainable for a range of reasons including the mandate given to the president, winner-takes-all elections, limits placed upon the president, rules of succession, dual legitimacy, and fixed terms. How does each of these features of presidentialism imply less regime stability?
 - a) Linz suggests that presidentialism 'fosters a certain populism'. Do you agree that presidentialism has implications for the style of politics that is practiced, and that this might be more likely to lead to populism? Why?
3. What are the four overarching criticisms that Horowitz makes of Linz?
 - a) What contradiction between elements of Linz's argument relating to winner-takes-all elections and checks and balances does Horowitz identify?
 - b) What modifications to the presidential system does Horowitz suggest can make it more sustainable?

Further Reading Questions:

4. What caveat to the argument that presidential democracies are more sustainable than parliamentary ones do Hiroi and Omori present?
 - a) What is the theoretical basis for their argument?

Essential Readings for Next Week:

- William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, and Sona Nadenichek Golder, *Foundations of Comparative Politics* (London, Sage Publications, 2018), pp. 221-240.
- George Tsebelis, 'Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis', *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93, No. 3 (Sep., 1999), pp. 591-608.

Further Reading for Next Week:

The further reading questions for next week will be based on the following two sources, which you may choose to focus on:

- John D. Huber and G. Bingham Powell and Jr., 'Congruence Between Citizens and Policymakers in Two Visions of Liberal Democracy', *World Politics*, Vol. 46, No. 3 (Apr., 1994), pp. 291-326.
- Sara B. Hobolt and Jeffrey A. Karp, 'Voters and coalition governments', *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Sep., 2010), pp. 299–307.