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Global Democracy

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Global democracy

GSP326-1_S GS Special Topic 17: Global Democracy
(2016SP)

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Summary

- Session 1: Introductory remarks on the challenges faced, required and recommended readings, assignments.
- Session 2: Varieties of international organizations and the limited democratization of global institutions.
- Session 3: Trespassing initial boundaries, overlap, and collaboration: towards global networks.
- Session 4: The building of a cosmopolitan culture through multilateral negotiations and transnational organizations.

Summary, 2

- Session 5: Revisionism: non-state actors and new claims for a more inclusive representation of the peoples.
- Session 6: Revisionism: emerging powers and the demand for more balanced institutions.
- Session 7: Progress towards more democracy, accountability, and transparency.
- Session 8: Concluding remarks and general discussion.

Democracy

AT THE LOCAL/NATIONAL LEVEL

Global democracy

- Global (?) + Democracy (?)
- **Demos** (one people) + **kratos** (power + authority)
- *"Government of the people, by the people, for the people"*

Government *of* the people

- The people is **homogeneous** (ethnically, linguistically, or committed to the same values)
- The people is **sovereign** (it makes laws; it appoint bureaucrats and rulers)

Government *by* the people

- Ancient **Greece, Swiss** cantons : **participatory democracy**, every citizen votes (within limits: indigenous men only)
- Modern revolutions (**UK, US, F**): **representative democracy** (to some extent: government of the “natural” aristocracy) since *“the people’s self rule is non feasible”*

Government *for* the people

- US: government *by the elites*, above the ordinary people (**educated, enlightened, wealthy**)
- Dedicated to the **promotion of the public interest**

Democratization

AT THE GLOBAL/INTERNATIONAL LEVEL


More challenging

- Democratic deficit, lack of democratic responsiveness: even more dramatic!
- Greater heterogeneity, bigger numbers: no “demos”
- No “individuals”? (at least, not everywhere)
- No world parliament, no world government, no world supreme court

No World Parliament

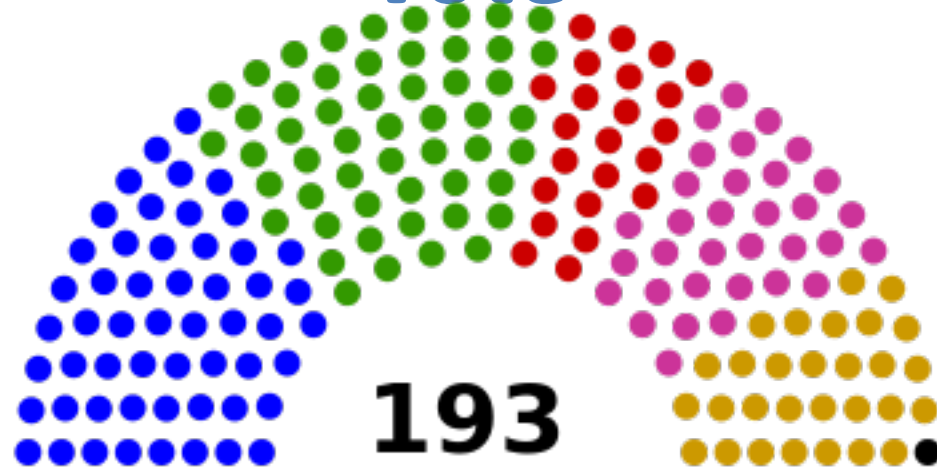


Find the best fun before anyone else!

FEEDMELOLS 

The UN General Assembly The Glarus Canton Assembly (CH)

The UN: regionalized, one state one vote



African Group

Asia-Pacific Group

Eastern European Group

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)

Western European and Others Group (WEOG) No group

Problem: What is the “demos”?

- Domestically, “all individuals significantly *affected* by a decision-making process should have an equal say in how that power is exercised”
- Globally, individual international organizations that contribute to rule making

Solution: Democratization by proxies

- Democratization, a **process** (rather than “democracy”, which is the **outcome** of this process)
- Democratization by **Proxies**: **International stakeholders** rather than the **people**

International stakeholders

- IGOs, Banks, Funds, Programs)
- NGOs, “advocacy” groups
- Business lobbies and unions, Foundations, think tanks, epistemic communities, etc.
- They do not make law, but **impose standards** and **promote new norms** (e.g. ISO, ICANN)

The democratization of IOs

- Democratization of what? Of the international/world stakeholders decision making process !
- = more inclusiveness, transparency, accountability

The globalization of benefits and costs

- Global public goods, the ultimate goal (instead of the vague “public interest”)
- Can be provisioned only beyond each single state, interstate cooperation is required
- This implies interorganizational cooperation: each organized stakeholder participates in a sort of “checks and balances” system, a mutual control

Our topic

- This implies **interorganizational cooperation**: each organized stakeholder participates in a sort of “checks and balances” system, **a mutual control**
- Therefore we shall address here:

Our topic

- The democratization of decision-making processes /
- within international organizations /
- to deliver global public goods /
- and exercise a mutual control over their respective outcomes

Our topic

- The democratization of decision-making processes within international organizations to deliver global public goods and exercise a mutual control over their respective outcomes

Distributive justice

Justice as fairness
(John Rawls)

Redistribution

Non
discrimination

Special and
differentiated
treatment

Assistance:
sharing
knowledge

Most Favoured Nation

Links

- Interview with an ICANN / Gac representative:
<https://www.icann.org/news/multimedia/2129>