




Political Culture & Socialization

Political Culture and Socialization

Political Culture:

- "A people's predominant beliefs, attitudes, values, ideals, sentiments, and evaluations about the political system of its country, and the role of the self in that system" (p. 66)
- Political subcultures



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The Civic Culture:

- "The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations" (1963) – Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba
- Political Culture is determined by three main factors:
 1. **Awareness** of government
 2. **Expectations** of government
 3. Political **participation**

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The Civic Culture:

- Three types of political culture:
 1. Parochial – low awareness, expectations, and participation
 2. Subject – high levels of awareness and expectations, but low participation
 3. Participant – high levels of all three

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Political Socialization:

- Why do people hold the political beliefs that they do?
- Political Socialization – the process of shaping and transmitting a political culture (p. 69)
- Through political socialization people understand, accept, and usually approve and support the existing political system

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Agents of Political Socialization:

- Primary v. Secondary Agents
- Six main agents:
 1. The Family
 2. Education
 3. Peer Groups
 4. The Media
 5. Other Agents
 6. Socio-Demographic Influences



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Democratic and Authoritarian Political Cultures



David Cameron



Vladimir Putin

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Consensual and Conflictual Cultures



Japan



Rwanda

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Stages of Political Socialization:

- Life-cycles effects
- Period effects
- Cohort effects