POLS 442
Politics in South Asia

I. Introduction

Death Tolls

- Indonesia: 115,229
- Sri Lanka: 30,920
- India: 10,744
- Thailand: 5,291
- Somalia: 298
- Myanmar: 90
- Maldives: 82
- Malaysia: 68
- Tanzania: 10
- Bangladesh: 2
- Kenya: 1
South and Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia
- Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand.
- The Philippines
- (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, etc.)

- International Investment and economic development
- Diverse political system
- Dynamic change

Analytical Perspective

- Regime Types
  - Institutions and procedures (ordering state power)
  - Stability: elite cohesion, mass perception of legitimacy, and institutional designs
- Democracy
  - Substantive democracy: equality (class, ethnic groups, gender, etc.)
  - Procedural democracy: Civil liberties, elections
    - Free speech, press, assembly

Regime Type

- Liberal Democracy
  - Substantive and procedural democracy
- Semi-democracy
  - Elections regularly held
  - Limited civil liberties (opposition parties operate but limited media outlets)
    - Malaysia and Singapore
- Pseudo democracy
  - Elections regularly held (but fixed)
  - Civil liberties severely restricted (opposition parties without autonomy)
    - Indonesia (New Order), the Philippines (Marcos)
- Hard authoritarianism
  - No elections, no civil liberties
### Theories of Regime Change

- **Structuralist**
  - Level of economic development, class or ethnic relations, historical legacies, etc.
  - Late developing Southeast Asian countries: capitalism enmeshed with the state
  - Capitalist class demanding freedom, regime change

- **Modernizationist**
  - Attitudinal changes of the middle class
  - Economic growth, urbanization, greater literacy rates
  - New middle class democratization
  - (Middle class may desire better governance, but not mass politics)

### Theories of Regime Change II

- **Culturalist**
  - “Timeless or reinvented patterns of cultural values amount to finely calibrated status systems that enforce the divisions between leaders and tame followings"
  - Personal and informal social relations
  - Top-down control as tradition
  - Asian cultures: hierarchy, status, gratitude, reciprocity, and personalism
  - Attitude ➔ political system?
  - (But may be reinvented or signified)

### Elite, social forces, and regime outcomes

- Inter elite relations: elite cohesion ➔ difficult for opposition parties to develop
- Elite-mass relations: collaborative mechanism
- Democratization: elite fragmentation ➔ social upheavals ➔ participation ➔ democracy