Qualitative Research Methods (Applied)

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Housekeeping

• We start in the computer lab next week
  • Regular sections times -- taught by me
  • Section remains optional

• No Lecture Tuesday April 23
  • Replaced by sections that week
Quick Terminology

• Rival goods: If I am consuming it, someone else cannot consume it (as much)
  • Example: Material goods (e.g. oil), land (if I’m farming it, you can’t)

• Non-rival goods: My consumption doesn’t limit your consumption
  • Example: Security. Also, secure shipping lanes.

• Private goods: Both rival and excludable (meaning you can prevent someone from consuming the good)

• Public goods: Neither rival nor excludable.
  • Examples: Security, clean air
    • Often we call things public goods even though they are excludable. These are actually club goods.
  • Examples: Roads, shipping lanes, public schools
    • Partially excludable: vaccines
Selectorate Theory

- **Selectorate**: The population of individuals who have some say in who the chief executive of the country is.
  - In the U.S.: Non-felon citizens over the age of 17.
  - In China: Members of the Chinese Communist Party

- **Minimum Winning Coalition**: The smallest group of individuals from the selectorate who can succeed in putting a chief executive in power
  - In the U.S.: 51% of voters in a subset of states accounting for a majority of electoral college votes
    - In practice, closer to 50% of all voters
  - In China: A bit hazy, but some plurality of CCP members (weighted heavily toward members of the politburo)
Selectorate Theory (2)

• We can predict a lot about state behavior by looking at the size of the minimum winning coalition relative to the selectorate

• Small MWC/selectorate = low leader turnover (stable autocracy)
  • Strategy: Buy off the winning coalition with private goods
    • Government jobs, tax breaks, outright bribes

• Large MWC/selectorate = high leader turnover (democracy)
  • Strategy: Buy off the winning coalition with public goods (and club goods)
  • Private goods are too expensive
Applying this to War Aims

• Some Theory:
  • Autocracies have small winning coalitions, so securing private goods is very desirable.
  • Democracies have large winning coalitions, so securing private goods (e.g. oil) is less desirable.
  • Both democracies and autocracies find war costly (blood and treasure)
    • Democracies may care more about these costs, because they are often born by members of the winning coalition
Hypotheses and Null Hypotheses

- Hypothesis 1: Democracies are less willing than autocracies to bear the costs of fighting in order to secure private goods.
- What is the null hypothesis?
- A. Autocracies are more willing than democracies to bear the costs of fighting for private goods
- B. Democracies are more willing than autocracies to bear the costs of fighting for private goods
- C. Democracies are less willing than autocracies to bear the costs of fighting for public goods.
- D. Democracies are more or equally willing than autocracies to bear the costs of fighting for private goods.
Hypotheses and Null Hypotheses (2)

• Hypothesis 2: Democracies have higher levels of economic growth than autocracies.

• What is the null hypothesis?
• A. Democracies have lower levels of economic growth than autocracies
• B. Autocracies have lower levels of economic growth than democracies
• C. Democracies have lower or equal levels of economic growth than autocracies
• D. Democracies have much higher levels of economic growth than autocracies
• E. Democracies have less frequent recessions than autocracies
Testing a Hypothesis

• Hypothesis 1: Democracies are less willing than autocracies to bear the costs of fighting in order to secure private goods.

• In Groups: Think of a quantitative way to test this.
  
  • 1. What is your unit of analysis?
  • 2. What is your dependent variable?
  • 3. What is your independent variable of interest?
  • 4. What is the population you want to make an inference about?
  • 5. What sample of cases will you analyze?
  • 6. How will you know whether to reject or fail to reject the null hypothesis?
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