Applying the analytical framework:
Why are there no Arab democracies?

DPI403 Class 3
Structure

1. Recap: The analytical framework explaining processes of democratization.

2. Diamond: Potential explanations for democracy in MENA states

3. Evidence comparing MENA regimes

4. Policy implications for strengthening democratization?
1. Recap: Analytical framework

- **Economic development and class struggle**
  - Barrington Moore

- **Societal modernization**
  - Seymour Lipset

- **Institutional design**
  - Arendt Lijphart

- **Colonial legacies and rule of law**
  - Acemoglu

- **Cultural values**
  - Ron Inglehart

- **International diffusion**
  - Barbara Wejnert

- **Geography**
  - Midlarsky

- **Natural resources**
  - Michael Ross

- **Religious legacies**
  - Huntington

- **Ethnic conflict**
  - Snyder and Mansfield
2. Applying explanations

Why are there no democracies among MENA states?
Discussion questions

• What are the most important reasons why there are no Arab democracies?
• “There is, then, an economic basis for the absence of democracy in the Arab world. But it is structural. It has to do with the ways in which oil distorts the state, the market, the class structure, and the entire incentive structure.” Diamond (2010) p98. Do you agree?
• If you were working for an agency seeking to strengthen democratic governance in the MENA region, what would you recommend as the most effective priorities and strategies?
Further Resources

• Larry Diamond. 2010. ‘Why are there no Arab democracies?’ Journal of Democracy 21(1): 93-104 DOI: 10.1353/jod.0.0150
• Haerpfer et al Democratization Ch 21.pp321-336

• UNDP. 2006. Arab Human Development Report
Diamond

• Since the early 1970s, the ‘third wave’ of democratization has transformed states worldwide

• Yet why are there no Arab democracies?
  o Culture and religion:
    • Yet Arab not a Muslim democracy gap
  o Economic development, oil, and social structure
  o Authoritarian statecraft
  o Geography and (lack of) international diffusion
  o Other factors?

• How would you evaluate these potential explanations?
3. Evidence

Comparing MENA states
Democracy by World Regions, 2008
Democracy in MENA nations
Democratization 1975-2008
Good governance & democracy
Democratic governance

[Graph showing the relationship between ICRG Indicator of Quality of Government and FH Liberal Democracy standardized scale (100 pts)].
GDP & democracy, 2008
Ethnic fractionalization
Oil/Gas & democracy, 2000
Democracy by predominant religious culture
Democratization in Muslim-majority nations, 1975-2008
## Applying Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Assumptions</th>
<th>Illustrative Cases</th>
<th>Key theorist(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Capitalism, economic inequality, industrialization, class struggle, elite pacts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barrington Moore, Dietrich Rueschemeyer et al, Carles Boix</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Societal modernization</td>
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<td>Seymour Lipset</td>
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<td>3. Institutional design</td>
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<td>Arend Lijphart</td>
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<td>4. Cultural values, religious traditions</td>
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<td>Ron Inglehart</td>
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<td>5. Colonial legacies</td>
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<td>Daron Acemoglu et al</td>
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<td>6. Geographic and natural resources</td>
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<td>Michael Ross</td>
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<td>7. International diffusion</td>
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<td>Barbara Wejnert</td>
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Conclusions?

• Diamond: what would cause change?
  o Rise of a democratic hegemonic state in region?
  o Change in US policy?
  o Steep decline in oil prices?

• Practical policy recommendations
  o Policy priorities and strategies?
  o Eg Parliaments - POGAR
  o Eg Gender equality and women’s representation eg Kuwait, Morocco, Bahrain
  o Eg Decentralized governance
Next class

Impact of democratic governance on economic growth and social welfare

Readings:

