"I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress."

— Ronald Reagan
Policymaking within Issue Networks: Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements

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PoIS 202: Intro to AP

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Policymaking Process

- Issue Networks (Helco, 1978)
  - Comprised of several actors with varying degrees of commitment to and dependence upon other actors in the network
  - “Fuzzy Boundaries,” Members move in and out of networks
Because the actors of issue networks compete for their preferred policies, they tend to come into conflict with each other.
Actors in Issue Networks

• Parties
  – Run candidates for office, provide support for candidates during elections, create party platforms, enact agendas, goal is to govern, organize members of Congress

• Interest Groups
  – Endorse/Oppose candidates and ballot measures during elections, have policy demands but don’t want to govern, lobby members of Congress

• Social Movements
  – Grassroots, non-institutional form of participation, raise issue saliency, goals are to affect public opinion and get elites to enact their policy demands
Political Parties

• Elections
  – Run Slates of Candidates for Variety of Offices
    • Local, State, and Federal Positions
  – Provide Logistical Support for Candidates
    • Provide “Ground Game” to Get out the Vote and $$$
Party Platforms

• Agendas for each party
• Updated every 4 years during conventions
• Voted on by delegates
• Examples of “planks” from the 2016 platforms
  – Dems: make wealthy pay their fair share, reform the criminal justice system, make debt free college a reality
  – GOP: fair and simple taxes, school choice, build a wall on the southern border (it’s gonna be “yuge”)
Political Parties, cont.

• Governing
  – Come to Power after Elections
  – In Charge of Government Functions
  – Control Agendas in Congress
    • Bills in Congressional Committees
    • Bills on the Floor of House and Senate
Parties Organizing Congress

• Voting of Members
  – Need Members of Party to Vote for Agenda Items
  – “Whip up” Votes: Official Whip Meetings, Talking to Specific Members
  – Tension between passing agenda items and getting members reelected. (Ex: Dems, “Obamacare” and 2010 Election)

• Party Leadership and Committee Membership
  – The Party Faithful Rewarded with Leadership Positions and Great Committee Assignments
  – Great Committee Assignments: district interests for better reelection prospects, more influence over key parts of policymaking process
Interest Groups

– Endorsements
  • Sierra Club: Clinton for Pres., Murray for US Senate
  • NRA: Trump for Pres., Newhouse (WA-4) for House

– Opposition Campaigns
  • NRA wants WA to Vote No on Initiative 1491

– Grade Candidates
### Interest Group Scorecards

#### ACLU Liberty Watch 2012

**Candidate Report Card on Civil Liberties**

Ratings are determined on a zero-to-four torch scale. The better a candidate's positions on civil liberties, the brighter Lady Liberty's torch shines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Humane Immigration Policy</th>
<th>Closing Guantanamo Bay &amp; Indefinite Detention</th>
<th>Gays &amp; Lesbians Serving Openly in the Military</th>
<th>Ending Torture</th>
<th>Ending a Surveillance State</th>
<th>Freedom to Marry for Gay Couples</th>
<th>Reproductive Choice</th>
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Interest Groups and Lobbying

• Provide Information
  – First rule: Keep the door open, so be honest!

• Write Legislation
  – Give legislators the language for bills
  – Only legislators are allowed to *submit* bills

• Build Coalitions
  – Work with other groups to increase chances of getting their preferred policies passed
Lobbying spending by sector, 1998-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Spending</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business (General)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ideology/Single-Issue</td>
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<td>Agribusiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>$0.59B</td>
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Source: Center for Responsive Politics
Social Movements

– Response to a Crisis
– Set of Demands
– Grassroots Mobilization
– Express Dissatisfaction w/ Status Quo
– Champion “people” over “elite”
– Initially Operate Outside Formal Institutions
Social Movements, cont.

• “Dualistic Capacity”
  – Institutional
    • Lobby Elected Officials, Testify in Congress, Litigate in Court System, Electoral Politics (Form Parties, Act like an Interest Group), Affect Agenda
  – Protest-Based
    • Peaceful protests, sit ins, destroying property, occupying space, organizing community, marches, etc.
Affecting the Agenda

• Tea Party
  – Balanced Budget Amendment (Voted on House Floor)
  – Appeal “Obamacare” (Vetoed January 2016)

• $15 Minimum Wage Movement

• Black Lives Matter
  – Criminal Justice and Police Reform
Affecting Policy

• Abolitionist Movement
  – Founded the Liberty Party (1840) and Free Soil Party (1848)
  – Coopted by GOP beginning in 1860
  – Post-Civil War Amendments (13th-15th)

• Farmers’ Alliance
  – Founded People’s Party (1892)
  – Coopted by Dems by the turn of the century
  – 17th Amendment (1913, direct election of senators), and other policies