CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE

IR/AN 711, PO 754

Autumn 2013
IRB102, Monday, 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Professor Augustus Richard Norton

152 Bay State Road, Rm. 440
Office Hours: M, 4:15-5:00 p.m.; T, 2:00-3:15 p.m.; TH, 2:15-2:45 p.m.
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CourseInfo page: http://courseinfo.bu.edu/courses/07fallgrsir711_a1/
http://blogs.bu.edu/arn/ (esp. for course related activities or supplementary lectures)

Google+
Blackboard

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Course Overview: There has been a resurgence of interest in civil society in recent decades, and references to civil society have become commonplace in daily discourse. This renewed interest in a concept that languished for decades stems from several sources, but by far the most important is the annus mirabilis—1989, when the countries of Central and Eastern Europe emerged from half a century of Soviet occupation. Although civil society was more the beneficiary than the engine of change in 1989, it was widely believed that civil society had played a major role in hastening the demise of Soviet rule. As a working definition, we define civil society as the mélange of autonomous groups and associations that serve as a buffer between citizen and state, which practice civility and accept the state as the appropriate domain for political contestation. Less important in the popular view, though more fully theorized, is the growth of civil society in transitions from authoritarianism to democratization. In a number of cases from Latin America and southern Europe, elements from civil society have lent impetus to democratic reform by articulating demands for increased political space and further liberalization. Thus, reforms intended by authoritarian
rulers to broaden the base of authoritarian rule have sometimes cascaded into liberal democracy.

The relationship between civil society and democracy is a subject of major debate however, and many scholars contest the notion that the existence of civil society is a sufficient condition for democracy. At best, there seems to be a necessary relationship between civil society and democracy, but even this claim is challenged, especially when it is applied to the developing world. Civil society has also been challenged for its middle class bias and its blindness to gender disparities. Representative critiques will be thoroughly examined in the course. The scholarly debate has not deterred major powers and international institutions, such as the United States and the World Bank, respectively, from promoting civil society for its presumed causative relationship to democracy. Among other benefits, this seminar should enable seminar participants, especially those interested in policy questions, to weigh the merits of such projects.

This seminar examines the question of civil society, including several of the leading theories. This semester the seminar devotes significant attention to the Middle East in light of the Arab awakenings that began in late 2010. These uprisings largely sprang from informal networks of associability, as well as from formally organized elements in civil society. Our purpose in examining these recent developments is to determine what conclusions may be drawn from these examples of mass activism, and to discern how these events might inform our understanding of civil society, especially in authoritarian settings.

We will examine other cases, notably Italy, Turkey and Algeria (where the impact of the “Arab Spring” was relatively muted. We will also spend on class session considering cyber networking and its potential as a platform for renewed social activism and political change.

The seminar participants are expected to do the follow: (1) Carefully read for discussion in class a core of common readings listed below; (2) lead and moderate a discussion session on a seminar reading; (3) write a seminar paper on a topic of their choice (subject to approval); and, (4) present a synopsis of their seminar paper for discussion and critique at the end of the semester.

**Academic integrity:** Please read the Boston University Academic Conduct Code. Handing in someone else's work or ideas as your own (even if you worked on it together as a group) constitutes plagiarism, as does using someone's ideas without attribution. You must give a citation when you use an author's ideas in your paper, even if you do not quote the text word-for-word. The correct procedures for quoting and referencing the work of other authors will be discussed in class. If you miss that class or if you
have any questions, please ask for guidance. Any infraction MUST be reported to the Dean for resolution by the Academic Conduct Committee. Be informed and be careful. Since plagiarized work is the work of another, any paper determined by the Academic Conduct panel to be plagiarized will normally receive a grade of zero.

GRADES AND EVALUATION:

Presentation I--15%
Research Paper--50% (topic and bibliography=10%; finished paper=40%)
Presentation II--20%
Participation--15%

REQUIRED READING OR REFERENCE:*


RECOMMENDED:*

____________, Civil Society in the Middle East, vol. I2 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1996) [on reserve].
*The BU bookstore has been asked to stock these books and copies are also available on reserve.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:


September 16: Mobilization, informal networks and civic associations: the Turkish case


Presentation: Johnson, “Does Democracy Travel?” (reserve)

Guest speaker: Professor Jenny White

September 23: Social capital, trust and associability: Italy.

Read: Putnam

September 30: Unpacking civil society: Do concepts have passports?

Presentations: Doyle, “Liberalism…” ; and, Mardin in Hall.

October 7: Critiques of Toquevillian Civil Society
Read: Mitchell, “The Limits of the State….”; Hann in Hann and Dunn, eds. (reserve); Gole in Norton, vol. 2 (reserve); Diamond, “Rethinking”; and Norton, “The Virtue of Studying Civil Society” (Blackboard).


October 15 (Tuesday): Associational Life in Authoritarian Settings: Algerian Case
Read: Liverani, *Civil society in Algeria*

Presentations: Entelis in CSME II (reserve); Moussalli in CSME I (reserve).

October 21: No class (make-up at seminar dinner).

October 28: The Arab Awakenings beginning in 2011, part 1

Presentations: Berman, “Civil Society…” ; Wiktorowicz, *MG1 NO78*

November 4 The Arab Awakenings beginning in 2011, part 2
Read: Bayat; selection from *Hamas and Civil Society* by Roy (reserve); Singerman (Blackboard).

Presentations: TBD

Guest speaker: Dr. Sara Roy on Hamas

November 11 No class meeting due to foreign travel (will be rescheduled as course wrap-up after December 9).

November 18 Is there social capital in networked society?
Read: *Networked*; and peruse Keane, 2003; with additional readings TBD.

November 25 Paper presentations

December 2 Paper presentations

December 9: Paper presentations
BACKGROUND READINGS

(An addendum will be provided as well.)


Brynen, Rex, Bahgat Korany and Paul Noble, eds., Political Liberalization & Democratization in the Arab World, Volume 1, Theoretical Perspectives (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1995)


Doyle, Michael W., "Liberalism and World Politics," American Political Science Review 80 (December 1986).


Ekiert, Grzegorz and Jan Kubik, "Totalitarian Legacies, Civil Society, and Democracy in Post-Communist Poland," paper delivered at the 1996 APSA meeting.


Harbeson, John W., Donald Rothchild and Naomi Chazan, eds. Civil Society and the State in Africa (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1995).


Hefner, Robert W., "Islam, State and Civil Society: ICMI and the Struggle for the Indonesian Middle Class," Indonesia 56 (October 1993).


Huntington, Samuel P., “Clash of Civilizations?” Foreign Affairs 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993): 22-49.


________, “Crises, Elites, and Democratization in the Arab World,” Middle East Journal 47, no. 2 (Spring 1993): 292-305.


Oxhorn, Philip, Organizing Civil Society: The Popular Sectors and the Struggle for Democracy in Chile (University Park: Penn State University Press, 1995).


