

P O L I T I C A L C U L T U R E & O P I N I O N

Political Culture: Widely shared

that citizens share about their

CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE:

1.

2. **(Rugged)** (as opposed to)

3.

4. (as opposed to)

5.

Of more than more than (capitalistic liberty can conflict with

☛ federal action results i.e.: (limiting actions of)

☛ 1930s – smoothing ill effects of

☛ 1960s – programs

American Dream – reverence for /chance to

FDR's " (1944) – ensuring

False consciousness (as opposed to historically associated with Europe)

6. , esp. since – impact of Vietnam War and Watergate (yet government expected to solve societal problems)

7.

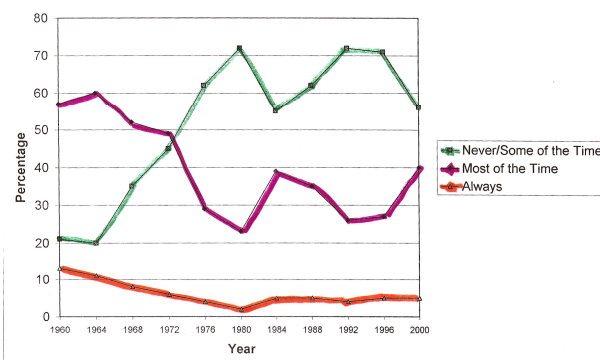
- Strongest when society has developed " – social networks
- Robert Putnam uses bowling example: # of bowlers has increased, but number of people in bowling leagues has decreased – with this and similar , less chance of people coming together, listening to each other, exchanging ideas – consequently smaller degree of civic duty
- Why do people hate & try to eschew (fun!) jury DUTY?

8. – the sense that one can both

9. – more in the abstract than in the concrete

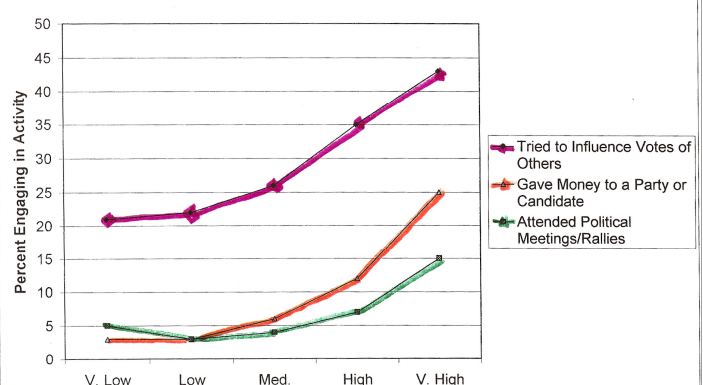
10. – belief in the "A government of laws, not men"

Trust in Government



This graph shows how people have responded over time to the following question: How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right: just about always, most of the time, or never/only some of the time.

Political Participation by Family Income



PUBLIC OPINION - TYPES OF PUBLICS

- : * Disproportionate amounts of
- : * Raise issues & help
- : * Influence
- : interest in
- : interest in

PUBLIC OPINION - TYPES OF OPINIONS

- : change very little (death penalty)
- : change very frequently (presidential popularity)
- : dormant, but may be aroused (military draft)
-
-
- : of personal importance to (Brady/gun control)
- : shared by or more of the people (balanced budget)
- : shared by of the people (gun control; ERA)

MEASUREMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION

- : incomplete; deceptive (do not explain WHY people voted as they did)
- (informal): inaccuracies
- Scientific Polls: of "

CONSTRUCTION:

- Definition of (population to be measured)
- - avoiding bias
- Selection of
- Selection of
 - : each person in universe has equal chance of being selected ()
 - National polls typically ~ respondents
 - : expressed in +/- terms, usually
 - Can reduce error with to a point but actually more important than size - sample sizes
- Uses of Polls:
 - Informing and officeholders
 - Making - (every 10th person leaving randomly selected voting sites) - very controversial, especially as impacts
- Abuses of Polls:
 - mentality of campaign reporting - at expense of issues
 - Officeholders/candidates may
 - Early exit poll projections can , especially in West; highlighted in 2000 election:
 - May have discouraged in FL
 - Flawed data from company major networks had contracted with: "garbage in, garbage out"

PUBLIC AWARENESS & INTEREST

- Politics are secondary in importance to most Americans, especially
- Surveys demonstrate substantial on the part of the public:
 - Inability to identify political figures (their Congressman & Senator; Chief Justice)
- Inability to identify (ten days prior to NH primary in 2004, 67% of Democrats did not know which candidate would repeal tax cuts)