


Explaining American Political Culture

Chapter 4, Theme B

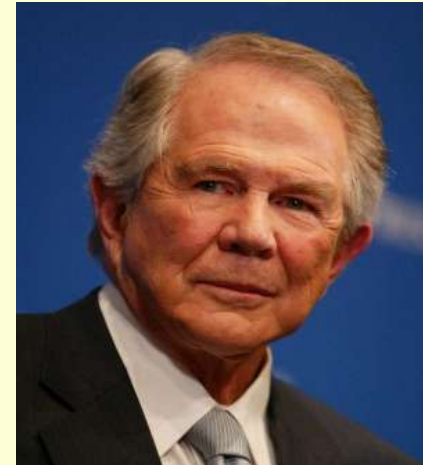


Comparisons to The US

Compare the US to other countries in each of the following areas using the graphs you created:

- Political System
 - Economic System
 - Civic Role of Religion
- 

Support of Religion

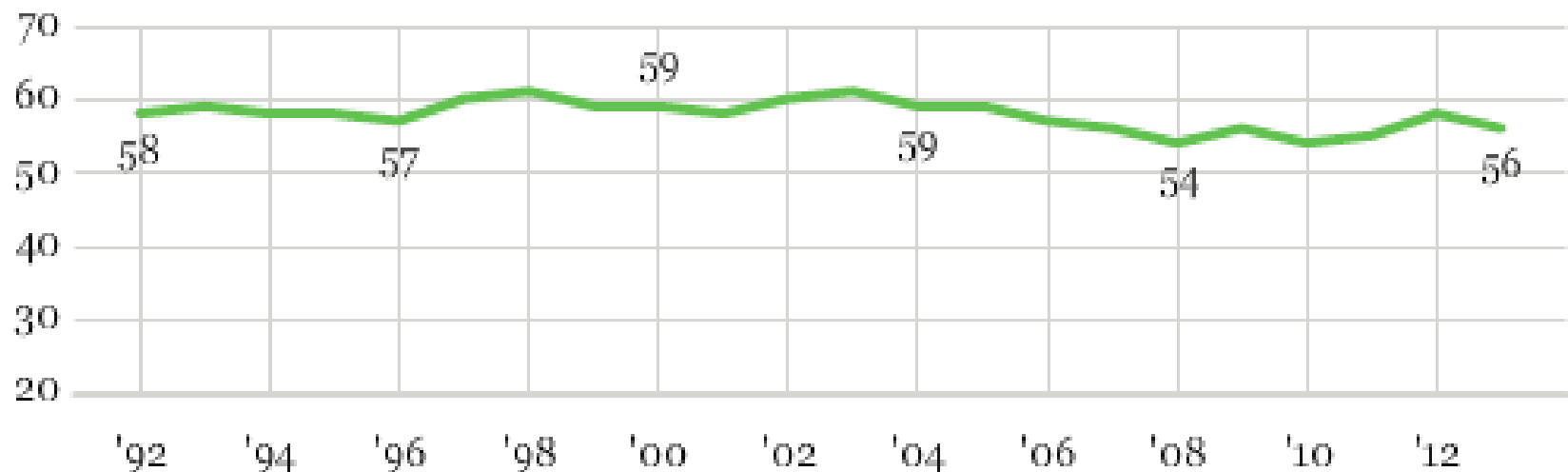


Both the “Left” & the “Right” use
the pulpit to garner support.
Differences?

Are we becoming more religious?

How important would you say religion is in your own life -- very important, fairly important, or not very important?

■ % Very important



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Next, I'm going to read some aspects of life in America today. For each one, please say whether you are -- very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. How about the influence of organized religion?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion
	%	%	%	%	%
2015 Jan 5-8	13	40	23	16	7
2014 Jan 5-8	14	40	24	16	7
2013 Jan 7-10	14	39	23	18	5
2012 Jan 5-8	18	38	21	17	6
2011 Jan 7-9	17	41	20	16	6
2008 Jan 4-6	16	40	22	17	5
2007 Jan 15-18	22	34	23	16	5
2006 Jan 9-12	19	36	23	18	5
2005 Jan 3-5	16	39	24	18	3
2004 Jan 12-15	17	41	24	14	4
2003 Jan 13-16	17	42	25	12	4
2002 Jan 7-9	18	51	19	9	3
2001 Jan 10-14	17	47	21	11	4

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How has religion affected debate on laws recently?




Review of Rights in Conflict

Who decides outcomes of conflicts over rights?

Are divisions political, economic, or social?

Can you give an example of each?

- Decide what values are in conflict for each example.
 - Which side are you on?
 - The Supreme Court?
- 



Sources of Political Culture

How did our historical hang-up with liberty shape our political culture?


Adversarial spirit of Americans

How did our distrust of authority shape our political culture?

Separation of powers

Checks & balances

How did Federalism lead to more political opportunity?





Sources of Political Culture

How has our Religious diversity shaped our political culture?

Protestantism vs. Catholicism

Protestant work ethic

Civic, community & political opportunities

Egalitarian family structures

EVERYONE is in the “middle class!”





The Culture War

The class struggle over wealth has never really materialized in the US.

What is the culture war about in the US?

The crux of the conflict is which group's values will shape our laws and policies:

Orthodox: Define

Progressive: Define

How does each group get furthered today?

The pulpit & family vs. the mass media

Which side is winning the “War?”





Mistrust of Government

What were some events in US History that caused the American public to have a mistrust of the government?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzXL7C0JQDM&feature=related>

Is this mistrust towards the government as a whole, or just to particular institutions?
Defend your answer.

Presidential approval rate

Congressional approval rate

US Supreme Court approval rate



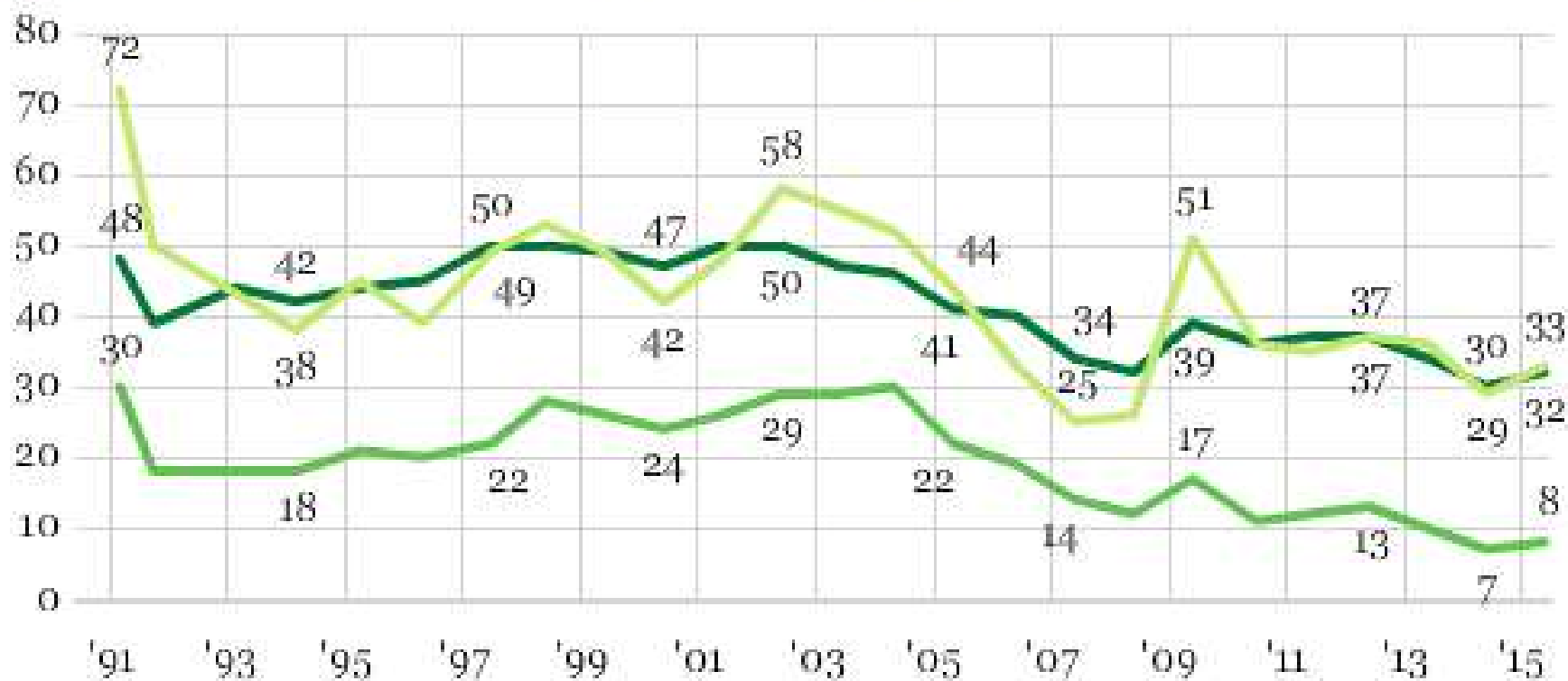
Americans' Level of Confidence in the Three Branches of Government

% Great deal/Quite a lot of confidence

The U.S. Supreme Court

Congress

The presidency




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Political Efficacy

The way Americans feel that the political system responds to their needs.

The current trend is that the American public has a lowered sense of understanding and ability to influence political events. Why?






Political Efficacy

Explain and give examples of internal efficacy:

- Ability to understand and take part in political affairs
 - Examples?

Explain and give examples of external efficacy


- Ability to make the system respond to citizenry
 - Examples?
- 



Tolerance

What happens within the government politically and economically is largely dependent on the opinions and actions of others

What are some examples of tolerance changes in US History? How have they affected politics?





Civil Society

Voluntary actions that make cooperation easier.

What kind of organizations make Currituck County run more smoothly?


Churches?

Civic groups?

Political groups?

What happens to a community if individuals “bowl alone?”

Use “neighborhoods” as an example in Currituck.





How Tolerant Are We??

Which groups, if any, would you suppress?

Protestants holding a revival meeting


Right-to-life groups opposing abortions

The KKK holding a rally

Atheists preaching against God and religion

Gay rights groups planning a boycott against businesses
refusing wedding services for same sex marriages

Which suppressions may be successful
here? Why?





Assignment for tomorrow

- Read pp. 162-170. Take notes on key concepts and vocabulary.
 - Complete the “Moral & Political Effects of Polling” sheet.
 - Due tomorrow!
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