

1984

Dynamics of Urban Politics Study Guide

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Recommended Citation

Samson, Steven Alan, "Dynamics of Urban Politics Study Guide" (1984). *Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 212.

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STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter One, "Study Urban Life and Urban Politics"

Terms

urbanization	metropolitan	creatures of the state
Federal Reserve System	local elites	intergovernmental relations

Questions

1. Identify three elements of the "urban crisis" in the 1960s.
2. Identify four limitations on the powers of local governments.
3. What restrictions result from the legal inferiority of local governments as "creatures of the state."
4. What are some of the signs of the centralization of economic and political power?
5. Identify the number of local units of government in the United States. How many of these are general-purpose governments? Special districts?
6. What percentage of local tax revenues are obtained from the state and central governments?
7. Why is less attention given by the average citizen to local than to national political issues? Which level is most often sought for help?
8. Are local governments relatively autonomous compared with the city-states of ancient Greece, such as Athens, or medieval Italy, such as Venice? Are local governments simply administrative units as they are in France and the Soviet Union?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Two, "Metropolitan America--What It Is, How It Got That Way"

Terms

SMSA	urban place	"machine" government
suburbanization	holding companies	metropolitan districts
Federal Highway Act of 1916	Immigration Restriction Act of 1924	
internal migration	organized crime	boosterism
conglomerates	multinationals	categorical grants
industrial parks	gentrification	Sunbelt

Questions

1. What is an SMSA? What percentage of the population and what percentage of land area in the United States belong within the now 323 SMSAs?
2. Where is the greatest population growth taking place? Is population concentrating or deconcentrating?
3. Identify four time periods of urban settlement in the United States.
4. Where did population cluster in the early ocean/river cities? Were city neighborhoods clearly divided by social class?
5. What were the sources of city growth during the Era of Steam and Rail Technology? What new urban technologies helped cities to expand in size during this period? How did these contribute to suburbanization?
6. What new developments took place during the transitional era of mixed rail/automotive technology? What factors favored economic and political centralization? How did the automobile affect traffic, settlement patterns, and the growth of Midwestern cities like Toledo and Dayton?
7. What events were responsible for the slowdown of immigration? What was Americanization? What factors led to black migration to northern cities? What were some of the problems faced by immigrant and minority groups? How did they respond?
8. What were some of the factors that led to the growth of organized crime? How did cities become more directly involved with the central government?
9. Identify some features of the automotive city of today.
10. Identify some of the changes in the business world tending toward centralization.
11. What factors have led to a similar centralization of government power?
12. Identify current trends in employment, economic, and living patterns.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Three, "Local Communities as Political Subsystems"

Terms

municipal corporations	Dillon's Rule	special act charter
general act charter	optional charter plans	home rule charter
"foundation" program	logrolling	categorical programs
formula programs	revenue sharing	community development
public housing	turnkey system	Local Housing Authorities
Housing Act of 1949	urban renewal	block grants

Questions

1. What is the constitutional status of a municipal corporation? How has municipal government developed historically? What is "Dillon's Rule"?
2. Distinguish between the three basic types of municipal charter. What are some of the areas of municipal concern in which state approval is generally required before action can be taken?
3. How has federal aid affected local spending in recent years? What is the difference between categorical and formula programs?
4. How have public housing programs changed since the 1930s due to various economic and political pressures? What are the primary arguments for and against urban renewal?
5. How did revenue sharing get started? How is this type of formula aid used? What are the two formulas that determine community development allocations? How is this aid generally used?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Four, "Local Governments as Public Policy Producers"

Terms

company towns

collective bargaining

incrementalism

Planning/Programming/Budgeting System

zero-base budgeting

Questions

1. Identify the six universal elements of any public policy. How is political conflict muted or controlled within this policy framework?
2. Identify and describe the four categories of public policy. How is conflict over distributive policies reduced through logrolling? What are some of the areas left open to local regulation? What policies are redistributive in nature?
3. Identify some of the processes for making local decisions, such as referenda and elections.
4. Identify four factors that affect local bureaucratic service, quality, and cost.
5. What conclusions has John P. Crecine drawn from his model of budgetary decision-making? What is incrementalism? What alternative systems have been proposed? What are the main elements of Crecine's model and how do they interact?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Five, "Urban Government: The Structures of Local Authority"

Terms

civil service system	bicameral councils	political machine
patronage jobs	Jim McManes	George Washington Plunkitt
William M. Tweed	National Municipal League	Short Ballot League
Richard S. Childs	National Progressives	Model City Charter
council-manager system	commission system	John V. Lindsay
mayor-council system	special districts	county executive systems

Questions

1. Does structure have an impact on the policies and politics of local government? How have local government forms developed historically?
2. What conditions favored the rise of urban political machines in the nineteenth century? What is the typical structure and function of the political machine? Who were some of the famous machine bosses of the past?
3. Why did the reform movement develop in the late nineteenth century? What have been some of its major goals and organizations? What structural reforms have been introduced as a result of it?
4. Have machine and reform politics changed today? Where is each type of politics at home?
5. How are local governments organized within each of the primary types: strong-mayor council, council-manager, and commission systems?
6. What services are typically provided by special districts? By counties?
7. What relationship may be typically found between government form and community characteristics such as race, class and ethnic identity? Socio-economic characteristics? Public policy?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Six, "Power and Planning in Local Politics"

Terms

extra-local forces	planning	James Oglethorpe
Pierre L'Enfant	Lawrence Veiller	Tenement House Act of 1901
Frederick Law Olmsted	Daniel Burnham	City Beautiful Movement
zoning	Urban Planning Assistance Program of 1954	
subdivisions	variances	social planning

Questions

1. Identify some of the potential resources of local political power. What effect does each have on political realities?
2. What is the philosophical basis of planning? Why is planning so controversial?
3. How has planning developed historically in America? When and where did zoning originate? How is zoning used in assisting urban planning? What role is played by subdivision development?
4. What are some of the current controversies over planning? What are some of the normative--or value-- questions involved in this issue?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Seven, "Metropolitan Politics: System or Chaos?"

Terms

annexation	Lakewood Plan	Councils of Government
consolidation	Uni-Gov	externalities

Questions

1. According to Thomas Dye, why are boundary lines more stable in older rather than newer cities? Which tend to have a greater number of local governments inside their metropolitan area?
2. Identify four organizational formats for incremental change. Give examples.
3. Identify two formats for moderate change. Give examples.
4. Identify two formats for drastic change. Give examples. Why is defeat considered the normal response to metropolitan reorganization plans? What considerations enter into the politics of reorganization?
5. Identify four models of metropolitan life and politics. According to Vincent Ostrom, what are the three characteristics of public goods? How are life-style values protected?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Goodman, Chapter Eight, "People in Local Politics"

Terms

class culture	interest articulation	ethnicity
persistence theory	mobilization theory	bureaucratic groups
strong-mayor systems	weak-mayor systems	

Questions

1. Identify four class cultures in urban America. What are the distinctive characteristics of each type?
2. What are some of the sources of stability and instability in the working-class subculture? Why is there a feeling of being under siege?
3. How do such values as action-seeking and immediate gratification influence the lower-class subculture? How does Edward Banfield's interpretation of these characteristics differ from the prevailing view of public social policy?
4. Individualism and self-expression are primary values in which subculture? What role is played by the middle class values in urban areas?
5. What are the three modes of manifest interest articulation? What role played by ethnicity and race?
6. Identify some of the types of organizations directly involved in local politics.
7. Identify some of the typical characteristics of public officials. What effect does a strong- or weak-mayor system have on local government?