

How To Study for Gov 20

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Outline

- 1 Reading for Gov 20
- 2 Taking Notes
- 3 Papers
- 4 Exams
- 5 Additional Strategies

Strategies for Reading Efficiently

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- Think about the connection to other readings
- Think about the connection to countries/cases you know about
- Think about when the piece was written and how this informs the analysis the author presents

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 - *Which other readings in Gov 20 is this piece arguing against?*
- 6 What do you think? Are you convinced or persuaded?

Note: The next two slides review the example of Gerschenkron, pp. 6-7 to look for the answers to these questions. Before transitioning to the next slide, take a second to read these pages and see if you can find and highlight the answers to the key questions above.

Example

- “One should beware of accepting such a generalization too whole heartedly... in several very important respects the development of a backward country may, by the very virtue of its backwardness, tend to differ fundamentally from that of a very advanced country”
- “It is the main proposition of this essay that in a number of important historical instances, industrialization processes... showed considerable differences as compared with more advanced countries, not only with regard to the speed of the development but also with regard to the productive and organizational structures of industry which emerged from these processes.”

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- France (banks), Germany, Russia (state)
- “A good deal of our thinking about industrialization of backward countries is dominated – conciously or unconsciously – by the grand Marxian generalization... 'The industrially more developed country presents to the less developed country a picture of the latter's future'.”

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- Link readings within and between weeks to one another

Summary Example: Gerschenkron

Classical modernization does not explain variation in development strategies in economically backward countries. Gerschenkron presents an alternative argument to the unilinear one advanced by Rostow that demonstrates that multiple paths can be chosen by countries trying to build industrial economies due to the specific circumstances of the country and the historical period in which they pursued development. He explores three methods that countries have used to develop because of backwardness: banks, the state, and ideology. Because of trust in the market, abundance of capital and entrepreneurial talent banks could work in France, while distrust of the industry and the strength of the state made state led development a better option in Russia. It is important to understand backwardness to create good policies that are tailored to each country rather than adopting old, and possibly unfit, models wholesale

Concept Map

Linkin' Log: Week One

Motivational question: Why do some countries industrialize and produce modern economies while others do not?

Culturalist Theories

Weber

- Protestantism and the "protestant ethic responsible for development"
- Protestantism encourages three qualities that support industrialization
 - Individualism
 - Work ethic
 - Savings
- Countries without these features will not industrialize

Modernization Theories

Rostow

- Countries develop when they have achieved certain benchmarks
 - Education, urbanization, political liberalization
- This happens for all countries regardless of type

Lerner/Inkeles

- Countries develop when their citizens achieve a certain mindset
- This too happens organically in all countries

Gerschenkron

- Countries develop at different times and in different ways depending on their background characteristics
- Especially important is the time at which they develop
- People who "come to the party" get the benefit of new technologies
- Where countries do not have the resources for development used in the past, they create new models

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Sample Paper Topic

Both Marxism and classical modernization theory assumed that there exists a single path to development and treated the historical trajectory of the West as the model for that path. Many of the course readings dispute this claim on empirical, theoretical, and normative grounds. Yet, is there now conclusive evidence that there exist multiple paths to development and/or democracy? In terms of fostering development or democracy in Africa, Latin America, Asia, or the Middle East, is there anything to be learned from studying the Western path to development? Or has our focus on the Western path been needless and even counter-productive?

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- Turn in “creative writing”

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- **Directly answer the question:**

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 - There isn't a right answer, but you need one
 - Tell us what it is: Clear thesis sentence in the intro!

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- Thesis statement, topic sentence, topic sentence, topic sentence, topic sentence, conclusion

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Try writing an answer to this one!

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- Ask questions about what you don't understand