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Treasure system of Uzbekistan

Lecture#11: Public Policy

Tashkent

What is Public Policy?

- Definition #1
 - Public policy is the result of interactions and dynamics among actors, interests, institutions, and processes.
- Definition #2
 - The formation of policy agendas, the enactment of public policies by Congress and the President, and the implementation and interpretation of policies by the bureaucracy and the courts, are all stages in the policy process.

More Defs...

■ Definition #3

- Whatever the government chooses to do or not to do. Such a definition covers government action, inaction, decisions and non-decisions as it implies a very deliberate choice between alternatives.

■ Definition #4

- A government's course of action that guides present and future decisions.

Finally...

- Definition #5
 - Government responses to public issues
- Definition #6
 - Public Policy examines the process by which governments make public decisions.
- Definition #7
 - Public policy also includes policy networks, iron triangles, and other forms of policy sub-governments in the domestic and foreign policy areas.

Public Policy

- One of government's primary roles is to make **public policy** that will solve society's problems.
- In the United States all three branches of government and the bureaucracy make policy.
- Many other organizations try to influence government decisions and programs, including special interest groups, research institutes, corporations, state and local governments, as well as individual citizens

So... What Does it All Mean??

- The study of public policy gives a clear understanding of the impact of:
 - Federalism
 - Interest groups
 - Political parties
 - and elections on policy processes and policy-making in the federal context.

What does policy-making mean in a federal system?

1. The national government passes laws, enacts regulations, and rules on cases.
2. Local and state governments also pass laws, enact regulation, and rule on cases. These may NOT overstep action taken by the federal government.



**National
Government**

**Local and State
Governments**

How is Public Policy Formulated?

1. First an issue is placed on the government agenda.
2. Then, the government decides what to do about that issue once it is on the agenda.

Each branch uses its own technique to formulate policy.

How Do the Three Political Institutions Enact, Implement, and Interpret Public Policy?

- **Legislative**
- **Executive**
- **Judicial**

Legislative Branch

- **Enact Policy**
 - Pass laws through the process outlined in the Constitution
 - Bi-Cameral vote and presidential signature
- **Implement Policy**
 - After a law is passed, money to support new law must be appropriated
 - Policy networks play important roles in how policy is implemented (formally iron triangles)
- **Interpret Policy**
 - Interpretation of policy by Congress is accomplished during the law-making process, especially in committee

Executive Branch

■ Enact

- The Executive Branch plays a major role in the how policy is enacted.
- The president signs bills from Congress into law
- The president also makes executive agreements which do not require Congressional votes

■ Implement

- The 3 million bureaucrats who are part of the Executive Branch are generally in charge of implementing policy
- The President uses the office's considerable power to implement favorite or approved policy through media exposure and placing it in the public's eye
- The Executive Branch also guides policy implementation through creating authorizations in the annual budget

■ Interpret

- The Bureaus and Agencies must interpret how the new policies are carried out after passage.
- This is perhaps the most powerful role of the Bureaucracy

Judicial Branch

■ Enact

- The Judicial Branch does not make policy per se, but uses its power of judicial review to make changes in Congressional laws and/or Executive agreements

■ Implement

- The Courts have no power of their own to implement laws; instead they must wait for the Executive to carry out their rulings

■ Interpret

- This is perhaps the most important role that the Courts have in public policy. When cases concerning public policy are presented, federal judges and Supreme Ct. Justices interpret whether or not it is constitutional.

What are the major types of public policy?

- 1. Social welfare and Domestic policy**
- 2. Foreign policy and Military policy**
- 3. Economic policy (includes)**
 - **Monetary Policy**
 - **Fiscal Policy**

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

- **Social Welfare policy is a term that encompasses a wide variety of governmental programs which have been designed to:**
 - **Protect people's health and physical well-being**
 - **Provide education and employment opportunities**
 - **And enable citizens to lead secure, productive lives**

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

- Social Welfare policies generally deal with:
 - **Health Care**
 - **Income Security**
 - **Education**
 - **Other...😊**

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

■ Health Care

- **Health care** is controversial today concerning the issue of a national health insurance program.
 - In 1993 Congress defeated President Bill Clinton's proposed plan to provide all citizens with basic insurance coverage for doctor fees, hospitalization, and prescription drugs.
- On the other hand, most people accept government's role in medical research and regulating food and drugs.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

■ Health Care

- **The Public Health Service** researches, gathers information, and monitors health care.
- **The Food and Drug Administration** regulates the labeling and processing of most foods, drugs, and cosmetics.
- **The Center for Disease Control** gained a new importance during the 2001 Anthrax scare following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

■ Income Security

- Most Americans during their lifetimes will be the recipients of government welfare.
- The most extensive single welfare program is **Social Security**, a social insurance plan for the elderly, poor, and disabled.
- Employees and employers contribute to a fund through payroll taxes, and virtually everyone who contributes for at least ten years is eligible for payments.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

Other public assistance programs include:

- **Medicare**
 - The federal program established in the Lyndon B. Johnson administration that provides medical care to elderly Social Security recipients.
- **Medicaid**
- **An expansion of Medicare, this program subsidizes medical care for the poor.**
- **Food Stamps**
- **Aid to Families w/Dependent Children (AFDC)**
 - A program created in 1950 which provided assistance to needy adults and dependent children; controversial because it seemed to create a class of persons who were dependent upon government aid.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

- **Fair Housing Act of 1968**
 - Prohibited discrimination by landlords and real estate companies, municipalities, banks or other lending institutions and homeowners insurance companies whose discriminatory practices make housing unavailable to persons because of race, ethnic group, national origin, gender, or disability
- **Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement Modernization Act-2003**
 - This landmark legislation provides seniors and individuals with disabilities with a prescription drug benefit, more choices, and better benefits under Medicare.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) 1997**
 - A program created during the Clinton administration that fostered a new philosophy of work rather than welfare dependency.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

■ Education

- Public education is generally regarded as the responsibility of states and local communities, so the federal government's role in this area is limited.
 - One example would be the **Federal Student Loan Program**
- Programs, such as **Head Start** for preschoolers, focus on helping underprivileged children.
 - However, the federal government today funds less than 10 percent of the total amount spent on education in the United States.

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY

■ Other Important Education Policies

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 - Policy created in 1975 that mandated that every child is entitled to a “*free appropriate public education*”.
- A recent initiative by President George W. Bush is No Child Left Behind, a comprehensive program that sets standards and schedules for testing, curriculum, and teacher qualifications.
 - The program has been controversial, partly because it has imposed unfunded mandates on the states.

OTHER DOMESTIC POLICIES

- **Americans with Disabilities Act**
- **Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act**
- **Civil Rights Act**
- **Communications Decency Act**
- **Freedom of Information Act**
- **Telecommunications Act**
- **Voting Rights Act**

FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY

■ The President

- The president is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and he has used that authority to order American military forces into combat on many occasions.

■ The Secretary of State

- As the head of the State Department, the Secretary of State is the chief coordinator of all governmental actions that affect relations with other countries.

■ The Secretary of Defense

- The president and Secretary of Defense make important decisions regarding the military budget and distribution of funds among the military services

FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY

- Foreign Policy is the “*diplomatic policy of a nation in its interactions with other nations*”.
- An important part of any nation’s foreign is its **Military Policy**
 - Military Policy concerns a nation’s use of strategy and the production and use of weapons

WHO MAKES FOREIGN POLICY?

■ The President

- The leader in foreign policy is almost always the president. Presidents, or their representatives, meet with leaders of other nations to try to peacefully solve international problems.
- According to the Constitution, presidents sign treaties with other nations with the advice and consent of the Senate.
 - So the Senate, and to a lesser extent, the House of Representatives, also participate in shaping foreign policy.
- Presidents may also make **executive agreements** with other heads of state that do not require Senate approval.

WHO MAKES FOREIGN POLICY?

■ The **National Security Council**

- As part of the Executive Office of the President, the Council helps the president deal with foreign, military, and economic policies that affect national security.
- Its members are the
 - **President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and any others that the president designates.**

■ The **Central Intelligence Agency**

- One of the most famous of all government agencies, the CIA gathers, analyzes, and transmits information from other countries that might be important to the security of the nation.
- The CIA director is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate

MILITARY POLICY

■ The Department of Defense

- The DOD is headquartered in the Pentagon, where about 25,000 military and civilian personnel work. The secretary of defense is always a civilian, and he supervises three large military departments – Army, Navy, and Air Force.

■ The Joint Chiefs

- The most important military advisory body to the secretary of defense is the **Joint Chiefs of Staff**. Its five members are the chiefs of staff of the three military departments, the commandant of the Marines, and a chair. All of the service chiefs are appointed by the president and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Important Foreign Policy Issues

- Protecting national security
- Providing international leadership in developing world peace
- Insuring a balance of power; keeping aggressive nations from overpowering weaker ones
- Cooperating with other nations in solving international problems
- Promoting human rights and democratic values
- Fostering cooperative foreign trade and globalization of trade through international organization
- Example:
 - Humanitarian Mine Action Program

Important Foreign and Military Policies

- Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)
 - Policy adopted in 1978 which prescribed procedures for requesting judicial authorization for electronic surveillance and physical search of persons engaged in espionage or international terrorism against the United States on behalf of a foreign power.
- USA PATRIOT Act
 - **U**niting and **S**trengthening **A**merica by **P**roviding **A**ppropriate **T**ools **R**equired to **I**ntercept and **O**bstruct **T**errorism Act of 2001
 - Policy created in 2001 which substantially expanded the authority of U.S. law enforcement agencies for the stated purpose of fighting terrorism in the United States and abroad.

Important Military Policies

■ **National Security Strategy**

- This policy is based on a distinctly American internationalism that reflects the union of our values and our national interests. Its three core objectives are to enhance our security, to bolster America's economic prosperity and to promote democracy abroad.

■ **For example: The Bush Doctrine**

- Policy that advocates the use of preemptive military action against a perceived threat to U.S. interests.

Other Important Foreign Policies

- **Peace Corps Program**
- **Vista**
- **President's Plan for Aids Relief**
 - Provides treatment, prevent, and support care for 10 million people infected with and affected by HIV, including orphans and vulnerable children.

ECONOMIC POLICY

- U.S. Economic policy generally deals with the question of how to balance capitalism with government regulations
 - Political and business leaders disagree on how much control is enough.
 - Until the twentieth century the country followed the *laissez-faire* policy, which required a free market without any intervention from government.

ECONOMIC POLICY

- With President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal era of the 1930s came Keynesian economics, or the opposite belief that the government should manage the economy.
- Today the U.S. economic policy lies **somewhere in between**
- **The government should regulate and sometimes manage, but should allow a free market whenever possible.**
- **EXAMPLE: The Airline Deregulation Act of 1978**
 - Completely eliminated economic regulations of commercial airlines over several years.

ECONOMIC POLICY

■ The Budget

- The budgeting of public funds is one of the most important decision making processes of government.
- Nothing reflects the growth in public policy and the rise of big government more clearly than the increased spending by the federal government.

Monetary Policy

- **Monetary policy is one of the tools that a national Government uses to influence its economy.**
- **Using its monetary authority to control the supply and availability of money, a government attempts to influence the overall level of economic activity in line with its political objectives.**
 - **Usually this goal is low unemployment, low inflation, economic growth, and a balance of external payments.**
- **Monetary policy is administered the Federal Reserve Bank in the United States.**

Fiscal Policy

- The second tool available to government (and one that is used by all levels of government) is fiscal policy.
- The term fiscal policy refers to the expenditure a government undertakes to provide goods and services and to the way in which the government finances these expenditures.
- There are two methods of financing these policies:
 - **Taxation and Borrowing.**

Important Economic Policies

- Budget Enforcement Act of 1990
 - Created two new budget control processes: a set of caps on annually-appropriated spending, and a "pay-as-you-go" process for entitlements and taxes, it has been extended several times, but was retired in 2002.
- Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act
 - EGTRRA was a sweeping piece of tax legislation in the United States. The Act made significant changes in several areas of the US Internal Revenue Code, including income tax rates, estate and gift tax exclusions, and qualified and retirement plan rules. In general the act lowered tax rates and simplified retirement and qualified plan rules such as for Individual retirement accounts, 401k plans, 403b, and pension plans.
- Gramm-Rudman Act
 - This act was passed in 1985 to eliminate the federal budget deficit. The law provided for automatic spending cuts to take effect if the president and Congress failed to reach established targets and a revision of the act in 1990 changed its focus from deficit reduction to spending control.

Important Economic Policies

■ **NAFTA- 1994**

- Agreement that promotes free movement of goods and services among Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

■ **CAFTA- 2005**

- Policy created in 2005 which eliminated trade barriers between the United States and five Central American countries -- Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica -- along with the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.

Other Important Economic Policies

- **The President's Agenda for Tax Relief- 2001**
 - A plan to reduce taxes on the middle class in several areas including child credits, eliminating the “death tax”, and “marriage penalty”.
- **Trouble Assets Relief Program (TARP)-2008**
 - Gave the Treasury secretary up to \$700 billion to buy mortgages and other troubled assets owned by financial institutions; AKA the “Bail-out” Bill

What are the Linkages Between Policy and Non-Government Entities?

The Linking Institutions

- **Interest groups-** Very powerful players that demand policy to reflect their area of interest; can apply pressure to both Congress and the Executive Branch
- **Political parties-** The parties demand policy to reflect their political beliefs; can apply pressure to Congress and the Executive Branch
- **Elections-** Elections reflect the way the public perceives the job that the government is doing. Candidates advocate the creation or dissolution of public policy and voters show their agreement or disagreement by voting for or against candidates.

What are the Linkages Between Policy and Non-Government Entities?

The Linking Institutions

- **Public opinion-** Can sway the creation of policy. Usually most noticeable with political elite, but polls, letters, or protests can also influence policy.
- **Media-** The national press can either help place new matters on the government's agenda or publicize those placed by others. This can affect government actions in the creation of public policy.