

UT Academic Overview Lecture 2006:
Formation of Society

History of Man's Symbiosis

On The Ecology of Power and Freedom

Lecture 3:
Political Power and Participation:
Road to Democracy
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Political Power and Participation: Road To Democracy

1. Why would anyone want to participate in politics?
2. On the institutionalization of democracy.
3. On participation and choice.

1. Why Participate in Politics?

1. To turn good governance into reality.
 - Shouldn't good governance be left in the hands of the wise and persons of outstanding ability?
→to the aristocracy.
2. To protect one's own rights and interests.
 - Wouldn't protecting one's own rights and interests be infringing on the rights and interests of others?
 - Do we truly know what our own interests are?
3. To broaden one's horizon on major issues, to become a better person.
 - Participation should come after having broadened views. Isn't this mistaking the means for the end?

2.1 A City-State and Direct Democracy

Features:

- Obscure governing by the poor and limitation of power.
- Only applies to small-scale territories.
- Demagogue can easily gain power.

2.2 Modern Nation and Representative Democracy

Features:

- Can be applied to broad territories.
- Introduction of a system of representation.
- Presents limitations to basic human rights and power.

2.3 “The Tyranny of the Majority”

- It is not only kings and aristocrats that can suppress power.
- Disband the majority.
- Checks and balances on power.

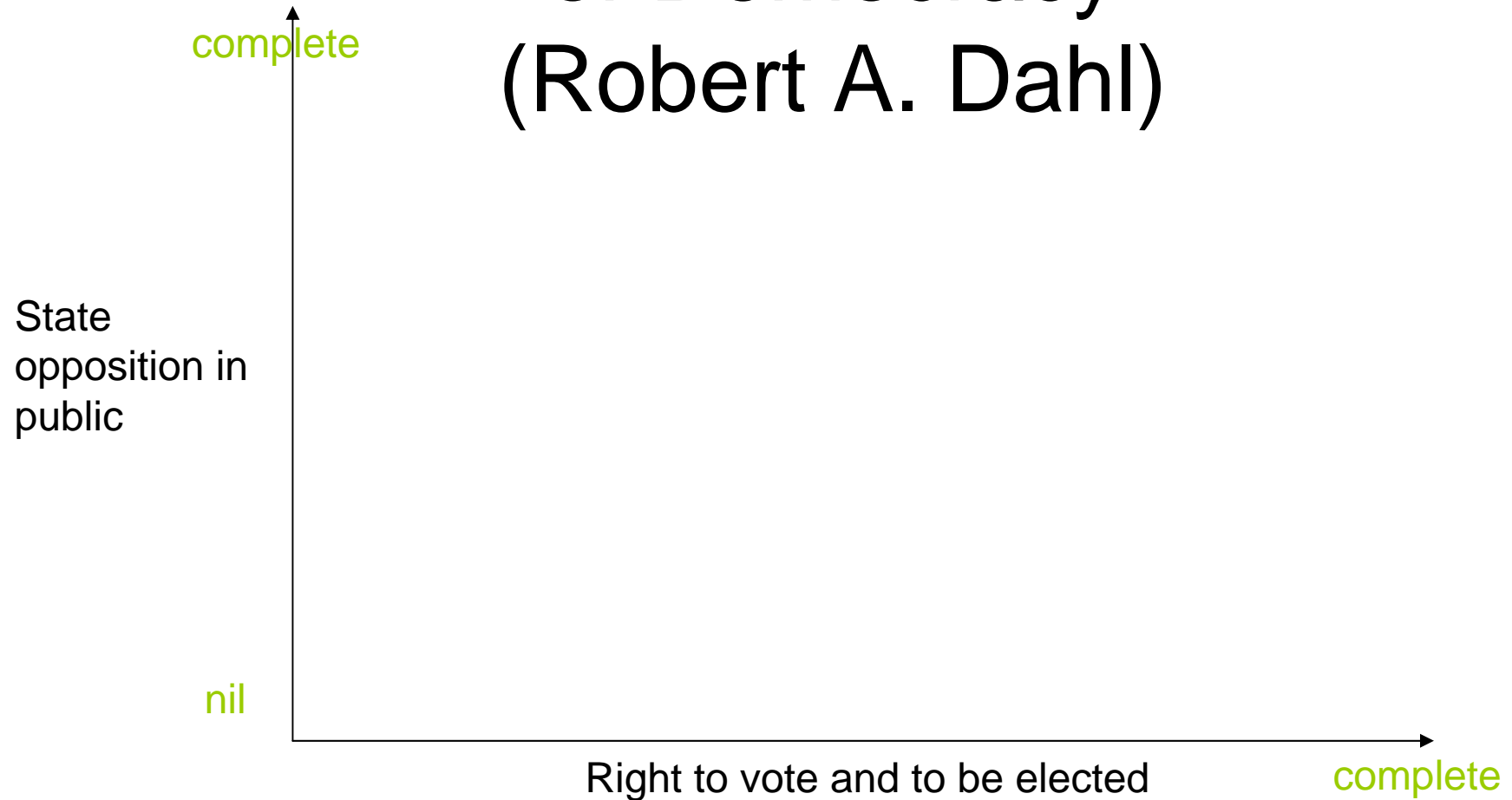
2.4 Creating a System of Representative Democracy

- Representative Democracy
 - Citizens get to elect only the congressmen.
 - The majority in congress will have power to run the government; Thus the cabinet will fall under their jurisdiction.
 - There are merits and demerits to a flexible government management system. These include the break up of the cabinet, elections and periodic change of ruling party.
- Presidential System
 - Citizens get to elect congressman and president.
 - Each will exercise the political power stipulated in the constitution. Both will be positioned in a restrained balancing relationship.
 - There are merits and demerits to a fixed and stable term of office.
- On Wide Range of In-between Modes of Governance

3.1 If You Don't Have a Choice, Is There Any Meaning To Participation?

- Without choice, the sole meaning of participation would be to become an applauding bystander to those in power.
- Unless there is room for selection, the value of public opinion has hardly any meaning
- This participation would only be giving authority to those in power
- From democracy to polyarchy

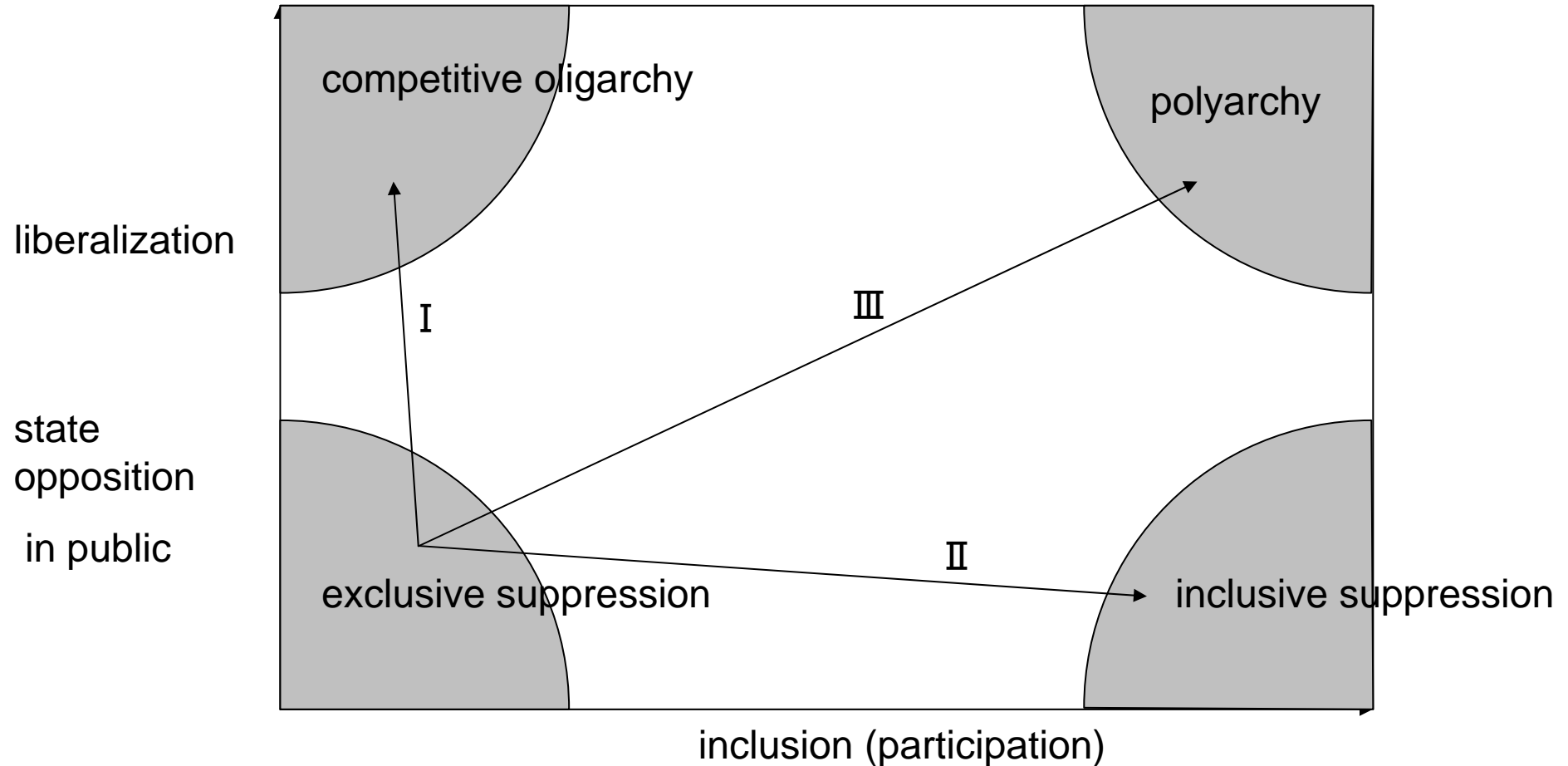
Two Theoretical Dimensions of Democracy (Robert A. Dahl)



text: Dahl, R. A., *Polyarchy*, 1971.

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Liberalization, Inclusion, Democratization



text: Dahl, R. A., *Polyarchy*, 1971.

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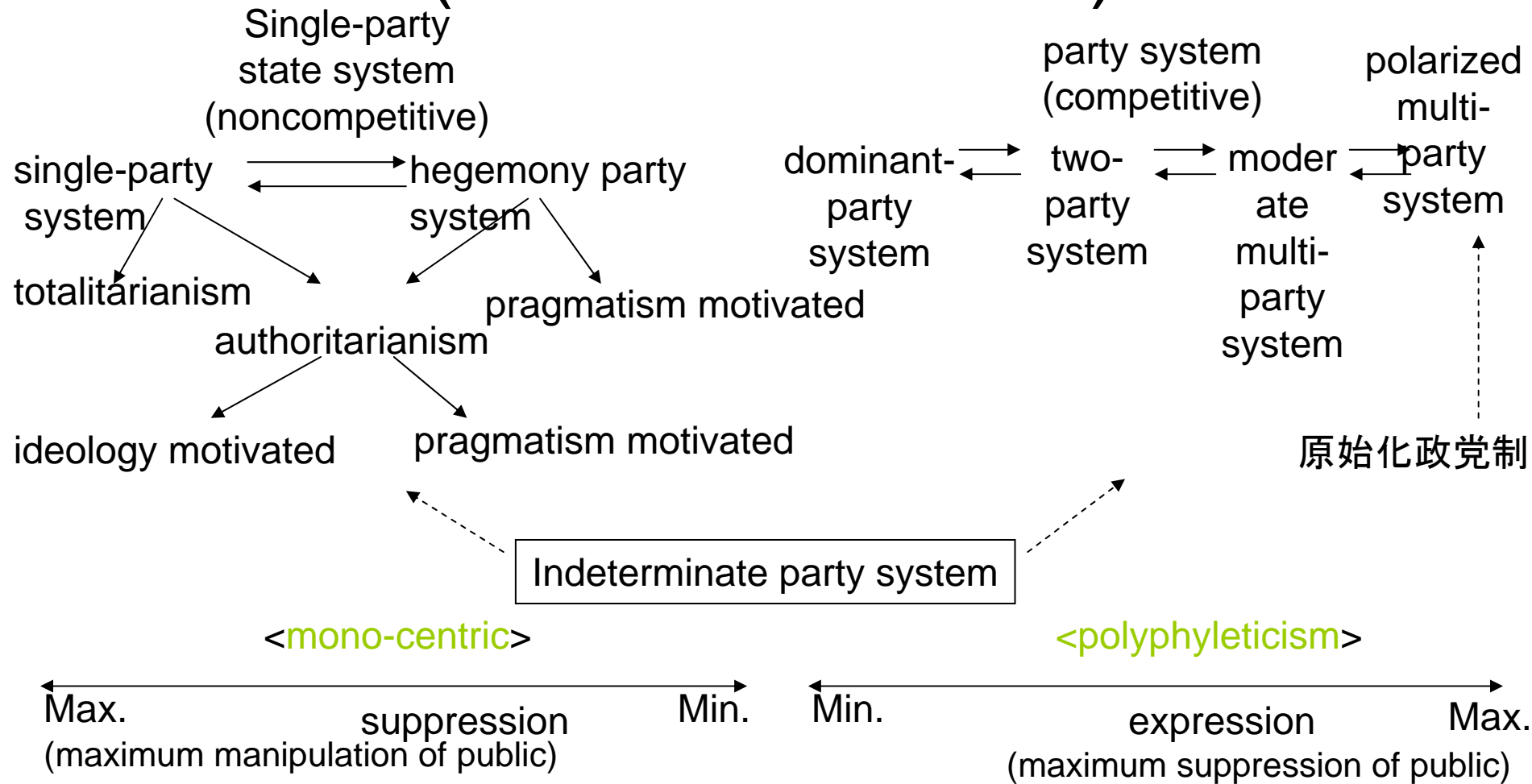
Single Party Dictatorship

- Partocracy: Any other party *de facto* prohibited.
- Single political party represents all.
- There is no option or choice given
Yet citizens have the right to vote

Multi-party System

- System that gives options, choice to its political parties.
- Classification based on the probability of participating in governance:
 - Dominant-party system
 - Two-party system
 - Multiple-party system (moderate to polarized)

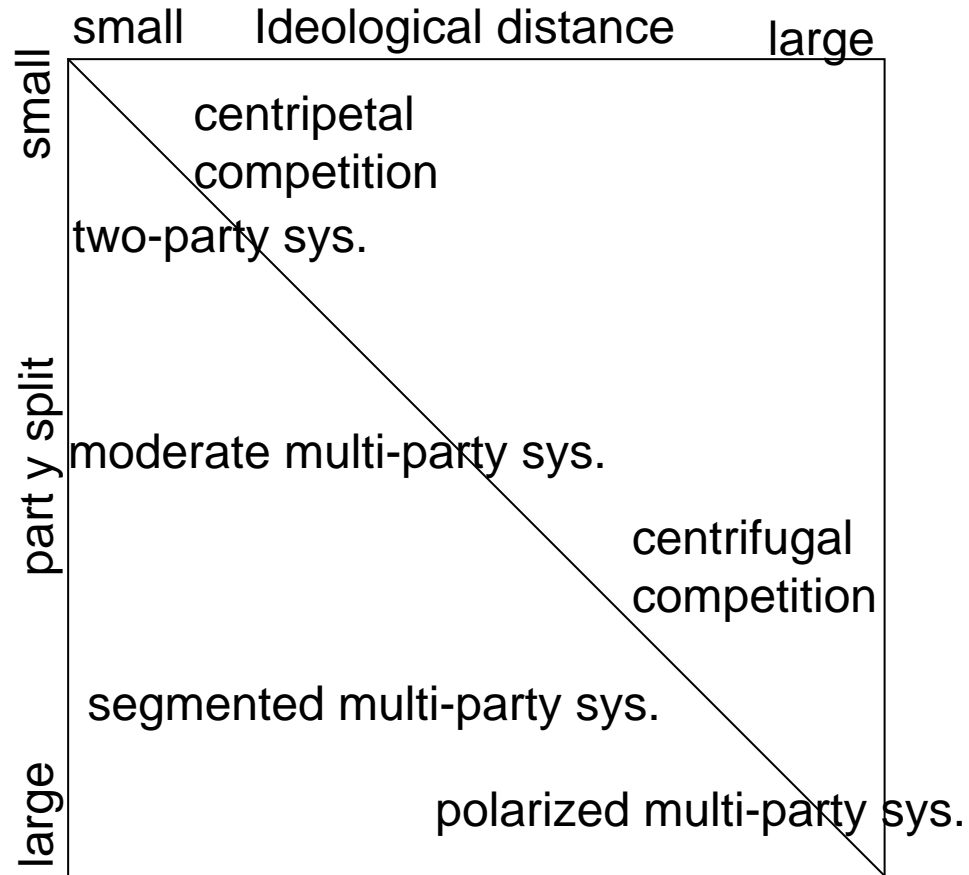
Typology of Party Systems (Giovanni Sartori)



text: Sartori, G., *Parties and Party Systems*, 1976.

2006/4/27

Abbreviated Model



text: Sartori, G., *Parties and Party Systems*, 1976.