Shively, Chapter 12 – Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics

Overview:

This chapter introduces students to the nature of interest groups and their variety in modern states. It explores how the interest group system represents public opinion in general and notes several circumstances that tend to make the interest group system unrepresentative. The problem of collective goods and participation in groups is also addressed. The chapter also brings in a typology of interest groups (sectoral, promotional, institutional) and looks at how the tactics chosen by interest groups are affected by the resources of the group and the political environment within which the group exists. An examination of the American Civil Rights Movement is used as an illustration of this. The remaining sections of the chapter discuss pluralism and neocorporatism as two important patterns of interest group involvement in policy making. The chapter ends with detailed discussions of interest groups in France and Japan.

Outline:

I. Introduction: Interest groups defined
II. Interest groups and representation
   A. Barriers to interest groups articulating and representing people’s wishes
      1. not all interest groups well organized (producer groups usually best ones)
      2. some groups command disproportionate voice in interest group system because they have special advantages
      3. most interest groups are not organized democratically; their leaders are not closely responsive to members’ wishes
      4. Box: The Logic of Collective Action
III. Types of interest groups
   A. Sectoral
   B. Institutional
   C. Promotional
IV. Tactics of interest groups
   A. Control of information and expertise
   B. Electoral activity
   C. Use of economic power
      1. threat of economic disruption
      2. contributions to political candidates
   D. Public information campaigns
   E. Violence and disruption
   F. Litigation
V. Patterns of organized interest group activity
   A. Degree of organization
   B. Degree of direct involvement in government administration
VI. Pluralism
   A. System where interests organize and compete freely
   B. U.S. often used as an example that fits the term most closely
   C. Critics note that not all interests are able to “organize and compete freely”
VII. Neocorporatism
   A. Government deals with interests at all stages of making and administration of policy
   B. Scandinavian states fit the term most closely
   C. System depends on cooperation and willingness to avoid rocking the boat
   D. System “petrifies” conflicts existing at the time it was established

(over)
VIII. Pluralism and Neocorporatism: Power and Choice
   A. Both pluralism and neocorporatism reflect “choice” perspective
IX. Examples:
   A. Interest groups in France
   B. Interest groups in Japan: attenuated neocorporatism
      1. fewer interest groups participate than in Europe, but their participation is strong

Keywords:
1) interest group 5) promotional interest groups
2) selective incentives 6) general strike
3) sectoral interest groups 7) pluralism
4) institutional interest groups 8) neocorporatism

Shively, Chapter 13 – Social Movements

Overview:
This chapter begins by defining social movements and discussing why they have blossomed during the 20th and 21st centuries. The chapter then highlights the advantages and disadvantages of “informal organization,” one of the key qualities that distinguishes social movements from interest groups and political parties. The chapter ends with an excerpt from Margaret E. Keck’s article on the rubber tappers’ social movement in Brazil and the “Orange Revolution” in Ukraine.

Outline:
I. Introduction
   A. Social movements defined
   B. Why social movements have blossomed in 20th and 21st Centuries
II. Advantages (and disadvantages) of informal organization
   A. How social movements are different from parties and interest groups
   B. The two “huge disadvantages” of informal organization
      1. difficulty amassing the resources political leaders respond to
      2. their ephemeral nature causes politicians to think that they can outlast social movements
   C. Distinct advantages of informal organization
      1. they can be nimble in defining and framing their issues
      2. lack of resources allow them to change tactics and be opportunistic
      3. ability to form networks across the boundaries of the state
III. Examples
   A. The Rubber Tappers of Acre
   B. The “Orange Revolution” in Ukraine

Keywords:
9) social movement 12) the “Orange Revolution”
10) contentious politics 13) “post-material” political issues
11) the “boomerang pattern”