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Challenges of policy-making in the twenty-first century

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The field of public policy

- A scholarly field like political science and economics
  - Schools of public policy or public administration
  - Degrees: MPP, MPA, PhD in Public Policy
- A professional field as well
  - Policy analysts work in government agencies, for elected officials, for advocacy groups
- Emerged in late 1960s and early 1970s
- How differs from other disciplines?
  - Problem-oriented, prescriptive
- Difference between advocacy/mobilization?
  - Dispassionate analysis

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The craft of policy analysis

- How do we find the best solution to a public problem?
- Proceeding systematically:
  - Define the problem
  - Define "policy options"
  - Define criteria for evaluation
  - Evaluate options
  - Choose the best option
- **Policy analysis as a radical project**
  - Rejecting tradition, authority, peer pressure

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Context: What the US and India have in common

- **A common search for security, prosperity, justice**
- Institutions:
  - Democratic selection of leaders
  - Individual rights and the rule of law
  - Federalism and state complexity
  - Market economies
- Extensive territory and large populations
- Diverse and "activated" populations
  - Urbanized, educated, mobile, wired
- Legacies of inequality and injustice

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Six challenges

- Building state capacity
- Governing within a federal system
- Managing the market
- Maintaining public support
- Achieving full and equal citizenship
- Responding to new challenges

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1. Building state capacity

- Building bureaucracies that are:
  - Highly competent
  - Honest and principled in the use of authority
  - Careful with spending public money
  - Responsive to public needs
- Building partnerships to deliver services
  - Between levels of government
  - Between government, private sector, non-profit organizations
  - "networked governance"

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Biden lays out plan to combat covid in first 100 days, including requiring masks on interstate buses, trains

President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday laid out a three-point plan to begin defeating the coronavirus pandemic during his first 100 days in office, saying he will sign an executive order the day he is sworn in to require Americans to wear masks on buses and trains crossing state lines, as well as in federal buildings.

Biden also pledged to distribute "at least 100 million covid vaccine shots" during that time, singling out educators, who he said should get shots "as soon as possible" after they are given first to health workers and people who live and work in long-term-care facilities under current plans. He did not specify whether he meant 100 million doses or vaccinating that many people; the two vaccines nearing approval both require two doses.

The other goal of his 100-day plan, Biden said, is to enable "the majority of our schools" to reopen within that time and to remain open. He called on Congress to devote the funding needed to make it safe for students and teachers to return to classrooms.
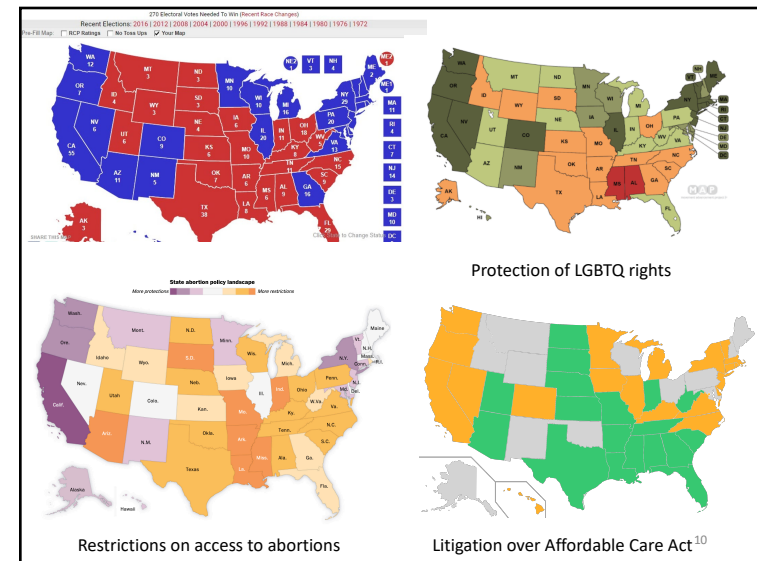
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2. Governing in a federal system

- Trends:
  - In the US, centralization in several areas
  - In India, decentralization since 1980s
- Pressures:
  - Media and electoral pressures to centralize
  - Regional pressures for autonomy
- What is the appropriate role of the central government?
  - What can the center do competently?
  - What should it do to remedy inequalities between regions?
  - To promote economic integration and common identity?
  - To protect common citizenship?

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Protection of LGBTQ rights

Restrictions on access to abortions

Litigation over Affordable Care Act [10]

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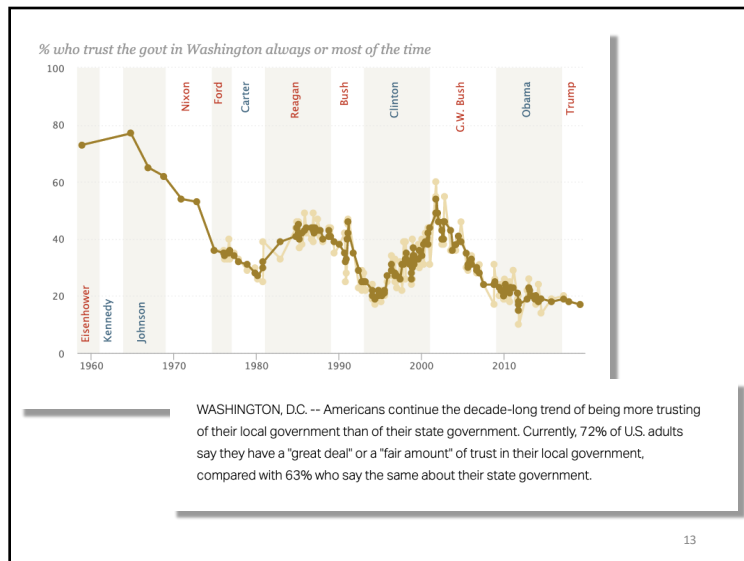11

3. Managing the market

- Trends:
  - In the US, a "pro-market" emphasis from 1980 to 2007
  - In India, from 1991 onward
- Pressures:
  - Rising inequality, between people and regions
  - Sectoral shifts and dislocations
  - Economic crises
- Challenges
  - What central role in economic planning?
  - How to provide essential infrastructure?
  - How to regulate effectively?
  - How to avoid "capture" by wealthy players?
  - How to protect people from economic risks?

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% who trust the govt in Washington always or most of the time

Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, G.W. Bush, Obama, Trump

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Americans continue the decade-long trend of being more trusting of their local government than of their state government. Currently, 72% of U.S. adults say they have a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of trust in their local government, compared with 63% who say the same about their state government.

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New Delhi, Oct 10 : More than two thirds, or more accurately, 69.3 per cent respondents, trust the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to the IANS CVoter Media Tracker.

The survey covered the trustworthiness of institutions among other contemporary media consumption trends. As against 69.3 per cent at the all India level who trust the Modi-led government, 16.2 per cent were inclined towards distrust of the Central government, while 14.1 per cent said they are not sure or don't know.

The trustworthiness of the state governments stands at 67.7 per cent with 16.7 posing distrust. For the institution of a municipality, the trust factor was lower at 54 per cent with 16.5 distrusting it.

The number is even lower for panchayats as 50.4 per cent pose trust while 17.7 pose distrust in the institution. For the police, the trust factor is at 62.4 per cent while distrust is at 22.6 per cent.

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4. Maintaining public support

- Importance of trust for compliance with policy
- Communicating effectively about public policy
- Achieving transparency in government
  - Right to information
  - Open data initiatives
  - Performance reporting
- Public consultation in policymaking processes
  - E-rulemaking
- Allowing choice in public services
  - School choice

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5. Achieving full and equal citizenship

- Protecting historically oppressed minorities
  - Racial justice in the US
- Assuring equal citizenship in a federalized system
  - Voting rights
  - Criminal justice
  - Treatment by police
- Expanding the concept of citizenship
  - Access to education
  - Access to healthcare

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6. Responding to new challenges

- Need for resilience in response to:
  - Stresses:
    - Demographic change (eg. Population aging)
    - Geopolitical changes (eg China)
    - Technological changes (eg automation)
    - Climatic changes
  - Shocks:
    - Terror attacks, economic crises, natural disasters, pandemics
- Obstacles to effective response
  - weak leadership, lack of support for top-level decisionmaking, lack of "buffer" resources, attachment to tradition, vested interests, bureaucratism
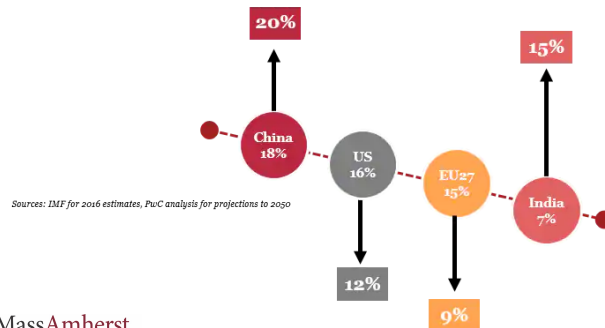
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The grand challenge of this century

Share of world GDP (PPPs) from 2016 to 2050...

Sources: IMF for 2016 estimates, PwC analysis for projections to 2050

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