Federalist

The anti-Federalists

* Anti Federalists worked as individuals without a collective approach like the Federalists (method matching the arguments)
* Started writing days after the final draft of the Constitution
* Suspicious of centralized government
* Most prevalent legacy is the Bill of Rights
* Writers included Patrick Henry, George Clinton, and Robert Yates (author of the following document)

Constitutional Contestation

* Federalist & Anti federalist demonstrate clear disagreements in founding documents
* Battle waged in the realms of philosophy econ, human nature, law, politics, and religion
* Thus the document doesn’t represent the normative ideal, but denominator
* Let’s look at one particular battle, emblematic of others…. State vs. Federal power

Brutus #1

* Importance to posterity – “…the happiness and misery of generations yet unborn is in great measure suspended, the benevolent mind cannot help feeling itself peculiarly interest in the result.”
* Looking back to set up the argument – “ We have felt the feebleness of the ties by which these United States are held together…”

The Stakes

* The Set-Up – “…society, in this favored land, will fast advance to the highest point if perfection, the human mind will expand in knowledge and virtue, and the golden age be…realized.”

Human Nature

* Relinquishing power – “… when the people once part with power, they can seldom or never resume it again but by force…few {instances exist} in which rulers have willingly abridged their authority.”
* What history teaches – “… every body of men, invested with power, are ever disposed to increase it, and to acquire a superiority over everything that stands in their way.”
* Fallibility of man – “… perfection is not to be expected in anything that is the production of man.”

Federal Powers

* “… all that is reserved for the individual states must very soon be annihilated, except so far as they are barely necessary to the organization of the general government.”
* Pay debts
* Common defense
* General welfare
* Taxation
  + “…the authority to lay and collect taxes is the most important of any power that can be granted; it connects with it almost all other powers… it is the great mean of protection, security and defence, in a good government, and the great engine of oppression and tyranny in a bad one.”
  + Essentially, the current draft of the Constitution guts state powers in that they have neither the sword nor the purse.

The practicalities of Scale

* “The question … whether a government thus constituted, and founded on such principles, is practicable, and can be exercised over the whole United States, reduced to the state?”
* “… a free republic cannot succeed over a country of such immense extent, containing such a number of inhabitants, and these increasing in such rapid progression as that of the whole USA.”
* Now that the main critiques have been cast, time to back them with some political theory…

Montesquieu

* Notably thinker in the development of the separation of powers
* One of the first political anthropologists
* Advocate for policy reform and ultimately abolition of slavery
* Widely read by the “Founding Fathers”
* Total hater when it comes to large territories under a centralized government

Jean Jacques Rousseau

* Purveyor of the Social Contract through absolute consent
* The public vs. the private self
* Critical of other foundational theorists including Hobbes & Locke

In other words…

* Man is power hungry
* Federal power is in the hands of too few individuals
* Federal power is too vague and thus vast
* Representatives tend to not actual represent their constituents
* The USA s too damn big
* Political philosophy

The Retort

* But the states have all the power – “Allowing the utmost latitude to the love of power, which any reasonable man can require, I confess I am at a loss to discover what temptation the persons entrusted with the administration of the ….”

State Influence

* “The superiority of influence in favor of the particular governments, would result party from the diffusive construction of the national government, but chiefly from the nature of the objects to which the attention of the state administrations would be directed.”
* “Affections are commonly weak in proportion to the distance…”
* “This STRONG PROPENSITY OF THE HUMAN HEART, WOULD FIND POWERFUL AUXIIARIES IN THE OBEJCTS OF STATE REGULATION.”
* “I mean the ordinary administration of criminal and civil justice.”
* “… Regulating all those personal interests…impress upon the minds of the people affection, esteem, towards the government.

Hooray for Feudalism

* How dies Hamilton utilize the history of feudalism to justify centralized federal power?
* Why is this a good argument?
* Why is this a horrible argument?

Jefferson’s Letters

* Talked snack on the other founders
* Suggested revisiting the Constitution with each generation
* Government as a method to find the exception from among all levels of society (besides women and people of color)
* Bottom-up approach to governing
* Total pedant and clearly an asshole

The Natural Aristoi

* The artificial aristocracy are those born into wealth and privilege
* “The natural aristocracy I consider as the most precious gift of nature, for the instruction, the trusts, and government of society.”
* “… that form of government is the best which provides the most effectually for a pure selection of these natural aristoi into the offices of government.”

Modern Corollaries

* The wealthy will find their own way in to politics (187)
* Traditional political reverence for certain families i.e. the familial dynasty (188)
* Alliance of church and state more prevalent than the opposite in politics (188)

The Ward System

* Free school provided by the community
* Finding the highest performers to move up in education (funded by the community)
* “Worth and genius would thus have been sought out from every condition of life…” (189)
* Care of poor, roads, police, elections, jurors, justice, militia… (little republics)
* Ward meeting acting as a Rousseau-like general will
* What does this create within the communities organized as wards? –its’ attachment with people, connections between people. Care about outcomes, political situations. It’s all about forging connections.

The Constitution Revisited

* “A constitution has been acquired, which, though neither of us thinks perfect (remember these are two founders and former presidents), yet both consider as competent to render our fellow citizens the happiest and the securest on whom the sum has ever shone.” (191)

State vs. Federal Control

04/18/2017 Race and Gender

* What is representation?
* How should our representatives chosen?
* Who should they be?
* What do we expect them to do?
* what kind of constituent service can we expect?
* what are the moral or practical limits to their behavior?
* How can we hold them accountable? Should we be able to do so?

Remember the Anti-Federalists

* Small-scale, localized, participatory democracy; Jefferson’s wards
* Brutus #1: Representatives “ are supposed to know the minds of their constituents, and to be possessed of integrity to declare this mind… for if they do not know, or are not disposed to speak the sentiments of the people, the people do not govern, but the sovereignty is in a few.”
* Substitute for democracy

Formalistic representation

* Did we elect this person?
* Do they hold their position legitimately in a basic, legal sense?
* Was the election held without fraud?
* Will they eventually be accountable to us again in another free and fair election, where we can evaluate what they’ve done?
* Two metrics by which we might evaluate what they’ve done

Promissory & Gyroscopic representation

* Promissory: the representative ought to keep promises which were made to constituents in exchange for votes.
* Promises (time 1)— legislator behavior (time 2) — sanction/reward (time 3)
* Gyroscopic: the candidate presents themselves as being a certain type of person. we also expect that they are not mis-representing themselves.
* Person type (time 1) — legislator behavior (time 2) — sanction/reward (time 3)
* Constituents can not/do not care about everything.

Descriptive representation

* Do they look like us?
* Common interests? Shared experiences?
* Pitman: “ the making present in some sense of something which is nevertheless not present literally or in fact.”
* to re-present
* it is not really about what they do, but who they are.

Symbolic or Surrogate Representation

* Indirect descriptive representation
* Surrogates may feel, even in the absence of direct control, a sense of responsibility
* Symbolic constituents may share information or resources fundraise, or offer (individually or through organizations) a kind of moral approval of the legislator.
* Representative might also offer substantive representation

Substantive representation

* Does the representative advance the interests of the represented?
* Depends on how we understand “interests”
* What are my interests? Where do my interests come from? Do I know my interests? Do you know my interests?
* Are my interests objective or subjective?
* Are there political consequences to thinking about them in one way or another?
* Elite Wisdom & the Objectivity of politics
* The mandate - independence controversy
* Are interests objective or subjective?
* Are representatives wiser and more capable than us?
* Are political questions about knowledge or values?

Should a representative do what his constituents want and be bound by instructions from them, or should he be free to follow his own inclinations and opinions about what is best?

* Independence: political questions have objectively correct answers, representatives are experts or possess higher levels of reason and wisdom, interests are objective and can be discerned
* Mandate: political knowledge is subjective, representatives are not superior in wisdom or reason to the constituents, interest of individuals are subjective and must be communicated.

Race & representation (formalistic representation)

* Did we vote for this person? Do they hold their office legally?
* Depends on who you are, and what you mean by “legally”
* Voter ID laws
* Gerrymandering, and majority/minority districts

Race & representation (descriptive representation)

* 69% of the population of Washington state is white
* 89% of the Washington state legislature is white
* Hispanics are 12% of the population, but only 2% of the legislature
* African Americans are 4% of the population, but only 1%of the legislature
* Minority representatives are highly clustered in urban and democratic areas; minorities are not

Race & Descriptive representation

* Many non-whites are represented by those who look nothing like them
* 150,500 African American women
* Leadership in the Washington State Legislature: Whites control all leadership positions and caucus positions in the Senate except 1: same thing in the House.
* Whites control 100% of chair and vice chair committee positions in WA state senate (republican controlled)
* Non-whites hold 16% of the

Descriptive representation

* Does this matter? Four arguments why it might (Mansbridge) :
* Creating a social meaning of ability to rule in historical contexts where that ability has been seriously questioned
* Increasing the polity’s de tacto legitimacy in contexts of past discrimination
* Adequate communication of interests in contexts of mistrust
* Innovative thinking in contexts of uncrystallized, not fully articulated interests

Do State Legislators Racially Discriminate Against their Constituents?

* Control variables were added to this analysis in order to account for other things likely to produce systematic variation in the rate of responsiveness
* Income in district ($10000 increase in median income
* south (8-18% decrease in

The link between descriptive & substantive representation

* Butter & Broockman show a potential link between descriptive and substantive representation along the axis of race
* Agenda - setting: African American legislators introduce substantively different legislation
* oversight: African American and Latino legislators are more likely to intervene in decisions by federal agencies and to testify in support of minority interests in hearings

Gender & representation

* formalistic representation is less of a problem, because women are evenly distributed in the population
* Descriptive representation is a large issue with gender, as with race
* Women in Washington State = 54% of voters, 50% of people, 36% of state legislators
* WA is a leader: Wyoming has 11% women, low teens throughout the south
* Descriptive representation still matters for the same reasons:
* Creating a social meaning of ability to rule (WA districts)
* Increasing the polity’s legitimacy
* Adequate communication of interests in contexts of mistrust
* Innovative thinking in contexts of uncrystallized interests

Integration vs. Transformation

Integration:

* Female politicians are just like male politicians
* Women can be both feminine and politically active
* Women can be successfully socialized into the existing institutional norms of the legislative body

Transformation:

* Legislatures are masculinist in their orientation: women offer substantive differences:
* Policy Preferences
* Policy leadership
* Legislative & Leadership Styles

how to increase race & gender descriptive representation

* Gains at the state legislative level trickle up (political pipeline)
* States can be laboratories
* Multi-member, at-large districting vs, single-member, post districting
* Quotas in state parties
* Proportional representation (ranked choice voting)
* Neutralizing campaign disadvantages

04/25/2017 The influence of Party - political parties in state politics

* The Dandelion Debate
* Microcosm or Rouge State?
* WA state as microcosm of US politics:
* Decrease in traditional party entrenchment amongst the electorate
* Increase in partisanship amongst candidates and legislators
* Corporatization and professionalization of parties
* New competition/threats from well organized and funded interest groups (PACs, ideological orgs., etc.)

So where does WA state separate itself? where can we observe the “western populism” mentioned in the text?

Reifying the two party monopoly

states decide:

1. what counts as a major party
2. internal party rules
3. form political caucuses
4. consolidate power to exclude outside parties
5. the result?

independent state w/o independent representation

* According to the Elections chapters in 2010, more WA voters identified as “independent” than any other party. yet, “…Washington state is one of only five states in the country where all statewide offices are held by either…

Formalization as Solution?

* What does it mean that political parties in the United states have a lack of formalization between political parties and their members?
* “Since political parties in the us have no formalized system of memberships and dues, such as exists in most european countries, the question of who is and who is not a member is hazy at best and relies, to a great degree, on self-identification.”
* Would a process of formalized attachment to party be helpful in the US?

2010 Senate Races as Case Study

* Year of ‘Tea Party Insurgency’
* Incumbent Patty Murray facing seriously chance of losing her senate seat
* Republican party split between Dino Rossi (GOP establishment supported strategically by Karl Rove) & Clint Didier (Tea party upstart with support from Ron Paul & Sarah Palin
* Primary results: Murray 46%; Rossi 33%; Didier 13%
* Easy Republican win in the general right?
* Nope… Didier holds GOP hostage over platform and refuses to endorse Rossi
* Murray wins by 4 points

The Effect of Party

* Weight & Schaffner set up a study to fill a gap in the literature in order to find the effect of party on legislative decision-making.
* What does any good study need?
* A control and an experimental

Previous Investigations

* Mayhew - members are pushing reelection first and foremost. Individual entrepreneurs using parties to retain seats. thus their decision-making can be understood with an eye towards keeping power.
* Krehbiel - members pursue their personal policy preferences outside of party.

1. Only looking at it within the legislature, focusing on leadership, and measured through votes. Excludes effects on constituents.
2. Oversimplification of how conflict works in congress
3. Only consider the House of representatives

Party Effects on Candidates

* What accounts for polarization and how do parties lead to partisan outcomes?
* Primaries
* Support comes form the ideologically and politically active
* Candidates themselves
* influencing candidates stances
* Difficulty in getting nominated without clearly linked issue preferences

A new Approach & Assumptions

1. Consider party effects electorally and legislatively
2. Provide a more nuanced view of legislative conflict across multiple dimensions
3. State-level examination

“…Parties link diverse issues, sometimes logically, but also politically as a result of their dynamic searches for electoral advantage.”

“we believe that the mere existence of competitive parties…operates to increase the salience of party so that it becomes an effective ‘default cleavage’ for the legislature.”

“…casting policy controversies in ‘we-they’ terms, and where the ‘we’ has a prior association with distinct issue stances, there can be a great deal of cohesion within the parties on substantive issues even without explicit efforts by the party or its leaders to steer members’ voting decisions on bills.”

Case selection & expectations

Nebraska:

* Nonpartisan legislature
* Unicameral body
* 49 members
* Shares many demographical details with Kansas
* Shares ideological leanings

“…expect a less structured issue space since the parties are not actively bundling the issues… and further, we expect… candidates will be less polarized…”

Kansas:

* Traditional party-based legislature
* Focus on the Senate only
* 40 members

“…the partisan character of the elections will work to produce an issue-space that is dominated by the familiar liberal-conservative continuum…”

Results

* Kansas matches previous research assumptions about structure and polarization.
* Nebraska has the same structure, but greater polarization.
* What does this mean?

Explanation

“it derives from our view of party as a device for creating order among the myriad of conflicts and issues that citizens and politicians face…The key, we believe is understanding the differential salience of the party/ideology linkage in different contexts.”

National context

“…by reflecting existing political conflicts in the states, the NPATs probably promote answering items in terms of the underlying and recurring political choices as framed in current…

The Party Bundle

* “issues do not get tied together around which coalitions from as in partisan legislatures.”
* “…the parties, in dying for electoral advantage, adopt positions on new issues to bring in new voters and, thus, package these with their existing issue stands… parties produce the ideological low-dimensional space as a by-product of their efforts to win office. Where the parties are not active in the legislature the clear structure found in partisan legislatures disappears.”
* As a result, “…nonpartisan elections cause lower turnouts, make it easier for incumbents to win elections, and effectively disenfranchise the poorest and least educated citizens.”
* In other words, Nebraska representatives are not connecting ideologies they run ton to votes when parties are not present. “…nonpartisan elections effectively break the policy linkage between citizens and their representatives in the statehouse.”

Discussion Questions

* Considering the findings of wright & Schaffner, should we double-down on political parties as the solution to renew order in legislative bodies?
* Would the addition of 3rd, 4th, 5th parties change the relationship found in the study?
* Are there institutional or organizational solutions to the current binary American voters are forced to operate within?

05/01/2017 **The Executive Branch** (Responsibilities, Challenges, Controversies)

* Majority of those employed by WA state work in one of these fields
* The 4 highest paid state employees are all university coaches
* The top 5 agencies in spending tend to fit in this category (UW, Dept of social and Health Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Corrections, & WSU)

FederalRelationship & Reliance

* Military industrial complex and public works projects in WA state:
* WWI (establishment of military installations)
* New Deal (dams, power, irrigation, parks, etc.)
* WWII & the Cold War (Boeing, Hanford, armaments production)

“…for most of the last 40 years Washington has depended upon the federal government for 20 to 25 percent of its total revenues.”

Responsibilities of the Executive Branch

* Consider what we place in the hands of the executive branch at the state level…
* roads
* ferries (largest system in the country)
* education (1.5 million students)
* prisons
* childcare
* environment
* Utilities
* health & safety
* Licensing (occupational & otherwise)
* Gambling (lottery, horse racing, etc.)
* Liquor & marijuana

Expectations vs. Expenditures

* What would we expect of WA state compared to other states when it comes to spending per resident?
* why?
* Environment
* Health care
* Corrections
* Higher Ed

However, the state is typically lower than most when it comes to public welfare programs.

The governor

* Political Leader & Party Leader
* Chief Legislator
* Administrator & chief executive
* Ceremonial Leader
* Economic Dealmaker
* State Symbol

Governor Greenie?

* Heralded as a new type of state leader focused on environmental policy
* Blames republicans, but could not ove legislation through Democratic controlled House
* Signed transportation legislation antagonistic to campaign promises
* Falling behind other west coast states
* Strength of lobbying in WA state
* Demonstrates the constraint on unilateral action by state executives

The others

* Lieutenant Governor - Cyrus Habib
* Secretary of State - Kim Wyman
* Attorney General - Bob Ferguson
* State Treasurer - Duane Davidson
* State Auditor - Pat McCarthy
* Superintendent of Public Instruction - Chris Reykdal
* Commissioner of Public Lands - Hilary Franz
* Insurance Commissioner - Mike Kreisler

Scandal

* Robert Bentley of Alabama
* Nathan Deal of Georgia
* Paul LePage of Maine
* Bob McDonnell of Virginia
* Rick Perry of Texas
* Rick Scott of Florida

Crisis

* Scandals are one thing, but public health is also at the heart of executive and gubernatorial responsibilities
* Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan:
* Blames both city and federal officials
* report filed by an investigative commission (appointed by Snyder) finds him and the executive branch responsible
* Lack of oversight and action in the wake of emergency manager switching water supply to save money
* Permanent damage to the already reeling community of Flint, Michigan disproportionately affecting the poor and children of color

The Initiative process

Roots & Purpose of the initiative process

* Grounded in the Progressive & Populist movements helping to shape the state constitution
* Outside run at direct democracy with general access to all citizens
* Two types of initiatives: Initiatives to the people & Initiatives to the legislature
* WA is one of 14 states with a direct to ballot provess
* Signature gathering process: 8% of the previous gubernatorial vote
* What are the potential benefits of this process?
* What are the potential and real pitfalls?
* What is necessary to launch a successful initiative?
* What can previous initiatives tell us about the interests represented?

Top initiates in WA (By signature)

* 19 of the 25 are “top the people”
* Only three are from before 2004 (and are the top 3)
* 10 are specifically tax related
* 4 are from the brain of Tim Eyman
* Top 4 most expensive of all time?
* In 2015 there were 103 proposed initiatives

The battle over legal weed

* Marijuana is a federal class I drug which includes heroin, LSD & peyote
* In WA state, young blacks and Latinos use marijuana less than young whites, yet Latinos are arrested at 1.6x the rate and blacks at 2.9x
* In 2012, I-502 was supported by US Attorney John McKay, Seattle city attorney Pete Holmes, and Rick Steves
* Those fighting against the initiative focused on DUIs, conflicts with federal law, and high taxes
* Those supporting it argued for decriminalization, raising revenues, and ending incentive for organized crime

The fallout

* Higher numbers of suspected DUI drivers with active THC in their system
* Increased revenues for the state (estimated $q billion over four years)
* money saved from criminal proceedings
* Teen use has remained steady (Federal Health Agencies)
* No significant federal challenges to state legalization
* Local news reporting has significantly received

Should we keep it?

Should we alter it?

Research papers

* A paper proposal requires you to narrow your topic and begin formulating the argument you will make in a final research paper. These proposals valuable means of testing out directions for your analysis and getting feedback in a low stakes situation.
* A good paper proposal will include the following:
* Description/ Justification for your topic
* Research Question
* Thesis Statement
* Argument Preview
* Preliminary Sources

Paper Proposal

* Description/ Justification for your topic
* Given the possible universe of things to research, why did you choose this topic?
* How is your topic relevant to this course?
* Research Question:
* **Crucial foundation for a good research paper.** You need a question you can answer by making an argument that is persuasive because it is logical, explains the question, and is supported by evidence.
* **You should look for puzzles.** Why is something out there, that you can count or name, different than what you would expect? What about the situation is surprising or counter-intuitive?
* **Think small.** You can’t explain why states fight wars or why capitalism arose. You only have a period of a few weeks to complete this paper - pick something you can get a grasp on in that period of time.
* **What is the process or event?** Are there in a certain situation over time (a temporal shift) or differences within the same region (a a spatial difference) that justify asking the question?
* A good question is not:
* A “what” question: What is Ron Swanson’s pyramid of greatness? This leads to description, not analysis.
* A statement about the subject matter you’ve chosen: “M.A.S.H. was the funniest show about the Korean war.”
* A negative “why” question: “Why didn’t more people like the show Heroes?” There can be lots of explanations for why something didn’t happen - it is much easier and clearer offer an explanation for something that did happen.
* Be careful of “how” questions
* **A good “why”question is a puzzle**… something that seems to call for explanation given what we know about the world.
* Despite being universally reviled, why do production companies continue to make reality television programming?
* Given that the professor is a mechanical and technical genius, why was the cast of Gilligan’s Island unable to leave the island?
* Why has science - fiction television shifted away from high-concept to character
* Thesis Statement:
* A good thesis statement responds to the question posed by the assignment.
* It offers a falsifiable (or at least contestable) claim that is supported by evidence.
* Essentially, the thesis statement is your argument writ small. The thesis statement should be in the introductory paragraph of your paper: social science is NOT about suspense.
* Thesis statements must make a claim or argument:
* They are NOT statements of fact.
* Argument Preview
* Clarify what steps you will take to address your topic: identify sub-arguments you need to prove your larger argument true.
* Connect your theory to your examples
* List and explain your criteria for argumentation
* Preliminary Sources
* Your proposal must include at least 5 resources. Focus on scholarly sources.
* For each source, explain how it contributes to your paper.

05/09/2017 A floor, not a ceiling

The end of the Lochner Era

* FDR’s attempts at progressive legislation (minimum wage, child labor, ag relief, etc) were continuously shot down by the Supreme Court
* Utilized attacks on ‘commerce clause’ justifications for federal legislation
* FDR threatens to pack the court with new justices
* One justice switched from the obstructionist majority in West Coat Hotel opening up a path for New Deal legislation

Fail Labor Standards Act (1938)

* Significant piece of the New Deal under FDR
* Established the 40 hour work week
* National minimum wage
* Overtime pay
* Controls on child labor
* Utilized the ‘Commerce clause’ towards worker empowerment in a dramatic transition from previous mobilization of the law
* Protracted fight over the legislation with every element suffering setbacks and attempted at exemptions (i.e. originally written as a 30 hour work week)

Federal Minimum Wage

* FDR used consumer side justifications arguing, “Without question it starts us toward a better standard of living and increases purchasing power to buy the products of farm and factory.”
* He also vilified those “with an income of $1000 a day, who has been turning his employees over to the Government relief rolls… tell you that a wage of $11 a week is going to have a disastrous effect on all American industry.”

Economic Effects Overtime

“In this brief historical overview I discuss why we need minimum wages and suggest that the national minimum wage has indeed had important and far-reaching economic effects.”

* 1938 - WWII: Stabilizing the economy
* WWII -1970s: Rise in real dollars and minimum standards.
* 1980s: Falling wage back to 1950 levels
* 1990-2013: Seven incremental increases barely kept up with inflation
* 2014-2016: State and municipal campaigns to creating a “living wage”

Classic Economic Assumptions

“In the standard model of perfect completion, employers will pay wages set by labor supply, wages equal the value of marginal products and any government regulations must reduce employment.”

“Under these conditions, workers and employers each are free to choose to enter into employment contracts and the wage reflects the value of a worker’s marginal product and nothing else.”

Contending the Classic model

* Higher wages raise productivity
* Persistent unemployment allows employers to pay below what they can afford
* Minimum wages reduce job vacancies and hiring costs
* Higher wages lead to lower turnover and reduction of employer costs overall

Keynesian Economics and the minimum wage

* Private sector does not always act efficiently and thus the public sector is required to stabilize output
* Mixed economy that is predominantly private but government intervention is necessary
* Focus on monetary policy and federal controls on various elements of the economy including minimum wage
* The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money was an influence on the New Deal policies of the Roosevelt administration
* “…higher worker purchasing power would create more economic growth.”

Era #4 1990-2013

* Minimum wage to median wage ratio continued to fall through the 19905 until it hit a low of 32 percent in 2006
* States, counties, and municipalities began moderate minimum wage hikes in an attempt to keep up with inflation and cost of living
* The Great Recession also put pressure on lawmakers to reject the yearly bills presented to raise the federal minimum wage

Era #5 2013-Today

* Growing fight for 15 campaigns across the country
* Statewide campaigns in New York and Oregon
* Wage raises in many places are barely catching up with the min to median ratio
* Effects are much larger than previous attempts typically effecting 5% of the workforce
* In SF and Seattle about 20% of the work force will see their wages rise
* “…middle-class workers are increasingly looking at minimum wage rates as key reference points for their own level of economic security.”

The Inequality Gap

“In 1980, the top 1 percent controlled about 8 percent of US national income. The bottom 50 shared about 18 percent. Today the top 1 percent share about 20 percent; the bottom 50 percent, just 12 percent. But the problem isn’t that we have inequality… The problem is that inequality is at historically high levels. Our country is rapidly becoming less a capitalist society and more a feudal society.”

The pitchforks are coming

“No society can sustain this kind of rising inequelity. In fact, there is not example in human history where wealth accumulated like this and the pitchforks didn’t eventually come out. You show me a highly unequal society, and I will show you a police state. Or an uprising, There are no counterexamples. None. It’s not if, it’s when.”

Middle - out Economics

* Addressing the loss of living wage jobs
* Grow social insurance programs
* Focus on the middle - class over trickle down theories
* “Middle-out economics rejects the old misconception than an economy is a perfectly efficient, mechanistic system and embraces the much more accurate idea of an economy as a complex ecosystem made up of real people who are dependent on one another.”