Jiaming Ch. 4 Summary

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| Main Ideas | Details |
| Political Culture | Each country has a different political culture.    Most Americans, British, and French think that democracy is good.  Americans are far more likely believe that everyone should be equal politically.    Alexis de Tocqueville noted that South America contains fertile land, but democracy has not flourished there. |
| The Political System | There are five important elements in the American view of the political system:    Liberty: Americans believe they should be free to do pretty much as they please, with some exceptions, so long as they don’t hurt other people.    Equality: Americans believe everybody should have an equal vote and equal chance to participate and succeed.    Democracy: Americans think government officials should be accountable to the people.    Civic duty: Americans generally feel people ought to take community affairs seriously and help out when they can.    Individual responsibility: A characteristically American view is that , barring some disability, individuals are responsible for their own actions and well-being    Americans believe that every citizen should have an equal chance to influence government policy and to hold public office.    Three questions about political culture  How do we know that American people share these beliefs?  A: Opinion poll  If these values are important to Americans, how can we explain the existence in our society of behavior that is obviously inconsistent with them?  A: People believe in honesty, yet they steal from their employers. Social circumstance shape behavior.    If there is agreement among Americans on certain political values, why have there been so much political conflicts in our history?    A: we have strong beliefs that happen, as each of us interprets them, to be in conflict. |
| The persistence of conflict | American while other argues that we should, in the name of diversity and multiculturalism, celebrate group differences.    Some people define them as persons who vote, pay their taxes, obey the law and support the military.    Others describe them as skeptical of government and ready to join protest    The older generation thinks the younger one is alienated, distrustful an lacking in clear moral guidance    The younger group saying that older people are rigid, conformist and too impressed by the military. |
| The Economic system | Liberty is very important in the U.S economy    Americans support the idea of a free-enterprise economic system, calling the nation’s s economy “generally fair and efficient”    Americans are more willing to tolerate economic inequality than political inequality.    Americans are quite willing to support education and training programs to help disadvantaged people get ahead.    Liberal political groups are more willing than the average American to support preferential treatment in the hiring and promoting of minorities and women. |
| Compare America with other Nations | 71% of Americans are proud to be an American.  21% of Germans are proud to be an German    French and Germans, and Italians think success in life is determined by forces outside an individual’s own control    Americans have very different views about important things than Europeans |
| The political system | Americans emphasized the virtues of individualism, competition and social relations.    The Japanese attached greater value to maintaining good relations with colleagues and having decisions made by groups    American were more concerned than Japanese with rules and with treating others fairly.    A study of political culture in five nations found that Americans and to a lesser degree citizens of Great Britain, had a stronger sense of civic duty and stronger sense of civic competence than the citizens of Germany, Italy, or Mexico.    American people have less trust in government than they once did |
| The Economic system | The Swedish leaders were more likely to believe in giving workers equal pay than their Americans counterparts    The Swedes were more likely than the Americans to favor putting a top limit on incomes    Americans are more likely to think that freedom is more important than equality. |

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| The civic role of religion | America has been among the most religious countries in the world.    Religious people donate over three times as much money to charity as secular people.    It is clear that religious in America has a large effect on our culture.    The religious revivalist movement of the late 1730s and early 1740s transformed the political life of the American colonies.    Both liberals and conservatives have used the pulpit to promote political change.    The general feeling about religion became apparent when a federal appeals court in 2002. |
| The Sources of Political Culture | American political thought and culture a preoccupation with the assertion and maintenance of rights.    The adversarial spirit of the American political culture reflects not only our preoccupation with rights but also our long-standing distrust of authority.    American family can be seen in the absence of a high degree of class consciousness among Americans |
| The Culture War | Almost all Americans share some elements of a common political culture.    Two culture classes in the U.S: the orthodox and the progressive.    On the orthodox side are people who believe that morality is important.  On the progressive side are people who think that personal freedom is important.    The culture was differs from other political disputes in several ways: money is not at stake, compromises are almost impossible to arrange, and the conflict is more profound    Two opposing views exist about the importance of the culture war.    One view, developed by Morris Fiorina, holds that politically the culture was is a myth.    The rival view, developed by Alan, more people choosing their party affiliations on the basis of the party’s position on important issues |
| Mistrust of Government | Large trust has been absent since at least the mid-1960s.    Domestic turmoil, urban riots, a civil rights revolution, the war in Vietnam,  and economic inflation changed American’s feelings |
| Civil Society | The collection of private, voluntary groups make human cooperation easier and provide ways of holding the government accountable for its actions.    Individualism of the American political culture makes civil society especially important.  There are three qualifications to this argument.    First, Americans still join more groups than people in most other democracies.    Second, a general measure of our civic health has increased of late.    Third, in ethnically and racially diverse communities we “ hunker down”-that is , we don’t trust our neighbors or contribute to charities. |
| Political Tolerance | Democratic politic depends crucially on citizens’ reasonable tolerance of the opinions and actions of others.    In general, Americans have become a bit more tolerant and more willing to tolerate communists.    One person’s civic intolerance can be another person’s heartfelt display of civic concern. |