

## 17.588f13 Week 11 “Clientelism and Patronage Politics”

### Questions for Class Discussion

The world is filled with reasonably stable and competitive electoral systems that seem to be based on a very different standard of political representation from what was assumed in the previous week’s readings? How did these systems emerge? Why do they endure? What would lead them to break down?

Is clientelism bad? What are its effects on economic and political outcomes?

How has what we know about clientelism changed since Scott’s original article?

Is there an affinity between clientelism and (a) autocracy, (b) strong parties, (c) corruption, and (d) ethnic politics?

What do you make of the experiments conducted by Finan and Schechter and Vicente? What would make the evidence they present more compelling?

Analysts of American politics (see the last four recommended readings) have long spoken of “machine politics”, “ward bosses”, “precinct captains”, and “deliverable constituencies”. Are these simply different words for clientelism, patrons, brokers, and clients? If not, what is different about the U.S.?

Some scholars have distinguished between “individual clientelism” or “group clientelism”. Are the same mechanisms required to maintain each?

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