GV103: Introduction to International Relations

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Protests

Introduction

- Two goals for this lecture
  - Discuss when protests are likely to success
  - Discuss implications for government response

A Model of Protests

	Stay Home	Freedom Square	Grassy Park
Stay Home	q_1, q_2	$q_1, q_2 - c$	$q_1, q_2 - c$
Freedom Square	$q_1 - c, q_2$	$\beta - c, \beta - c$	$q_1 - c, q_2 - c$
Grassy Park	$q_1 - c, q_2$	$q_1 - c, q_2 - c,$	$\beta - c, \beta - c$

Analysis

- Seething in Silence
  - 1 stays home b/c others expected to do the same
  - Exists when $\phi < \hat{\phi}$
  - Where $\hat{\phi} \equiv \dfrac{c}{s(\beta - q_1)}$
- Failed Protests
  - 1 protests but 2 does not
  - Occurs w/ probability $1 - \phi$ when $\phi \geq \hat{\phi}$
  - 1 goes to Freedom Square, 2 to Grassy Park (or vice versa)
  - Occurs w/ probability $\phi(1 - s)$ when $\phi \geq \hat{\phi}$
- Successful Protests
  - 1 and 2 both go to Freedom Square (or Grassy Park)
  - Occurs w/ probability ϕs when $\phi \geq \hat{\phi}$

Government Response

- Cracking down on protests is risky
  - No guarantee that security forces will follow orders
  - International community might punish
- Extreme censorship is also risky
  - Likely to decrease q_2
  - May also lead to sanctions (or less cooperation)
- Allowing criticism but not coordination
  - Likely to increase ϕ
  - But even when $\phi \geq \hat{\phi}$, protests may fail