

Political Science 171: State Politics

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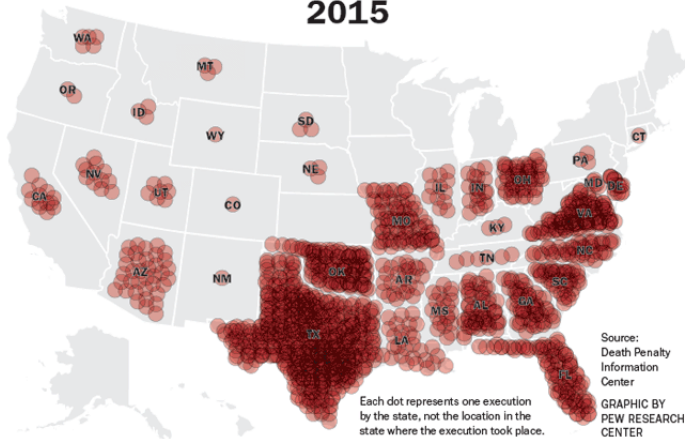
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Executions by State

Cumulative Number of Executions as of **2015**



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- Three aspects of interest groups we will examine
 - 1. Diversity of organized interests in state politics
 - 2. Explain different goals, strategies, and tactics of various interest groups in state politics
 - 3. Give proper perspective on influence of interest groups in state politics

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- Some people complain about environmental groups – increased regulations can slow down the economy
- Private interest groups, however, often work only for a niche interest/group, and hence against the broader interest of society's concerns

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 - Some interest groups are more active in one state/regions than in others (e.g., gaming industry in Nevada)

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- 2. Trade Associations
 - Often have interests that overlap with corporations and business firms – difference is corporate/business is a single corporation, whereas a trade association is numerous businesses organizing together
 - Among the most active of all interest groups in lobbying state gov't
 - State Chamber of Commerce – very active
 - Chamber of Commerce for instance, pressured IN and AR against passing “religious freedom” laws

Six Broad Categories of Interest Groups

- 3. Labor Unions
 - Organizations of workers that bargain collectively with their employers – usually for compensation (wages, benefits)...so they can sit around and not work very hard...
 - Often interested in: minimum wage, tax policy, civil rights legislation
 - Union membership has declined over time – used to dominate in construction, manufacturing, mining, transportation – but there are not as many of these jobs anymore.
 - Union memberships now largest in public and service sectors – Service Employees International Union (SEIU), American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
 - States with powerful unions tend Democratic: NY, CA, HI, WA, OR, NJ, RI, MI, CT
 - CA – Teacher's Unions 6 most powerful of all state teacher's unions according to recent report. United Auto Workers powerful in Michigan, etc.

Union Membership Decline

Union Membership Percent of All U.S. Workers 1948 to 2010

