14. Civil Society, Interest Groups, and the Media

Peter Ferdinand, Emeritus Reader in Politics and International Relations, University of Warwick

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Abstract

This chapter focuses on the concept of civil society, along with interest groups and the media. It first provides a background on the evolution of civil society and interest groups before discussing corporatism. In particular, it examines the ways in which civil society responds to state actors and tries to manoeuvre them into cooperation. This is politics from below. The chapter proceeds by considering the notion of ‘infrapolitics’ and the emergence of a school of ‘subaltern’ studies. It also explores the role of the media in political life and the impact of new communication technologies such as the Internet and mobile phones on politics. Finally, it evaluates some of the challenges presented by new media to civil society.

Keywords: civil society, media, interest group, corporatism, state actor, politics from below, infrapolitics, subaltern studies, communication technologies, Internet

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