Common Policy Issues
Issue

- Governments must come up with ideas on how to handle certain issues in their own country
  - Each one will come up with their own approach, with varying degrees of success
  - What works in one country, may not necessarily work in other countries

- Public Policy involves the following issues
  - A set of issues or problems
  - The individuals and groups who seek to influence policy making
  - The decisions made by the state as a result
  - The consequences of those decisions
Healthcare

• States have been struggling with the idea of what types of health services should it provide to its citizens
  • And at what additional costs, if any

• Different countries will have different areas to focus on, but generally the issues of HIV/AIDS, heart disease, alcoholism, malaria, and quality of care are the largest issues
Environmental Policy

• Countries have to balance development against the environmental impact and governments help set regulations to determine how the issues will be handled
  • Pollution
  • Use of resources
  • Climate Change
  • Land Use
Education

• Education is an important piece to developing a country and keeping up with the global economy, but can also lead to political problems as the population becomes more comprised of highly educated citizens
  • May demand more rights
  • Requires availability of high wage, high skilled jobs
Defense and Security

• Governments must maintain a balance of providing security to their citizens to the point of being seen as source of law and order, without appearing to be overbearing or oppressive
  • Governments want to remain in power, but need to be careful on infringing on the rights of its citizens
  • Corruption can quickly delegitimize the government and weaken the state
Universals of Policy

• Public policy is important.
• Most states face similar problems that demand the attention of policy makers.
• By comparing public policies we can learn more about how systems function.
• The consequences of public policy impact the state’s legitimacy and its reputation in the global community.