



# 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.