

POLITICAL CULTURE & SOCIALIZATION

United States vs. South Korea

1 DEFINITIONS

Political culture is the set of values, beliefs, and attitudes citizens hold about politics.

Political socialization is how people learn those norms through family, education, media, religion, peers, and national experience.

2 KEY CONCEPTS



Political Culture

Values, trust, and beliefs shape how citizens view democracy and public life



Socialization Agents

Family, schools, media, peers, religion, military service, and national history



Political Participation

Voting, protest, civic engagement, and public pressure on leaders



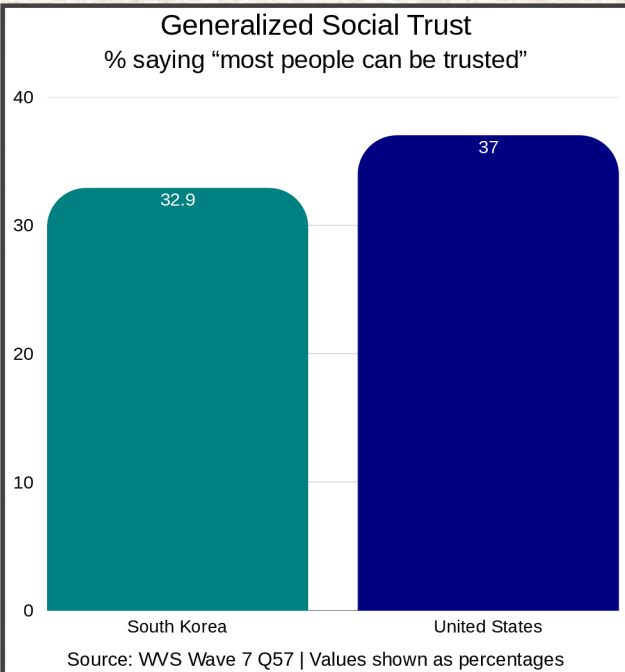
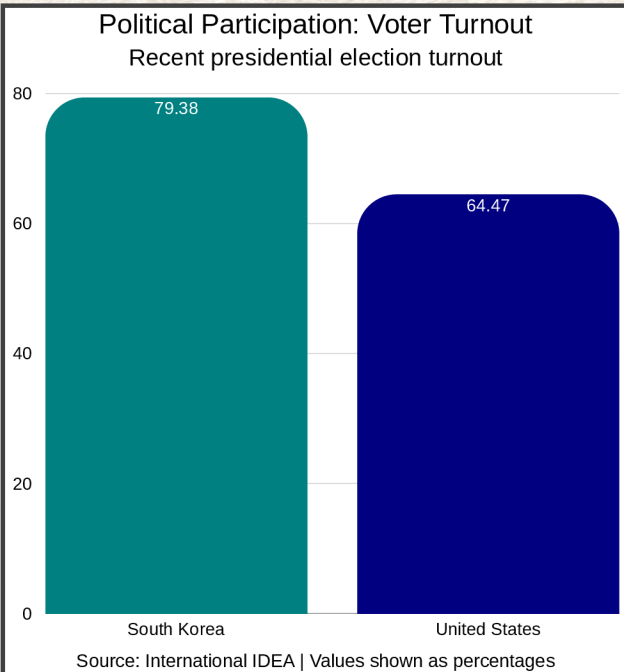
Trust in Institutions

Confidence in government, courts, parties, media, and public institutions



Democratic Resilience

How culture and trust support or weaken democratic stability



3 COUNTRY COMPARISON



UNITED STATES

- Individual liberty and constitutional rights
- Skepticism toward concentrated government power
- Political socialization through family, schools, media, religion, and civic groups
- Polarized media environment shapes political identity



SOUTH KOREA

- Democratic transition and national development
- Strong education culture and civic mobilization
- Political socialization through family, schools, media, military service, and protest memory
- Collective responsibility shapes expectations of public life

4 KEY COMPARATIVE FINDINGS

- Both countries are democracies, but citizens learn different expectations about rights, duty, authority, and civic action.
- The U.S. pattern is more individualist and polarized, while South Korea's political culture is strongly shaped by democratization, education, and protest memory.
- Institutional and social trust matter in both countries because low trust can weaken democratic legitimacy, while civic participation can pressure institutions to respond.

5 MAIN TAKEAWAY

Democracy depends not only on elections, but on the values, trust, and civic habits citizens learn over time.