The Heart of Policy Arguments

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Some definitions and context

- **Policy**: a plan or course of action adopted by a government or organization designed to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters.

- **Politics**: the properly constituted and legal mechanism by which the general public expresses its judgments on the value to it of the good and services that it needs.

- Politics is a creative and valuable feature of social existence.
The heart of policy debates

- **Equality**
  - *Treating likes alike*
  - Chocolate cake example from Deborah A. Stone, *Policy Paradox and Political Reason*, 2002, Ch. 2

- **Efficiency**
  - *Getting the most output for a given input*

- **Security**
  - *Satisfaction of minimum human needs*

- **Liberty**
  - *Do as you wish as long as you do not harm others*
The Policy-Making Process

Problem Definition
- Identify Issues
- Historical Why, How
- Current Conditions

Policy Instruments
- Analyst's Frame
- Analytic Methods
- Identify the Options

Cast of Characters
- Stakeholder Frames
- Decision Makers
- Influence Brokers

Analysis

Formulation

Definition of Needed Change

Definition of Options & Means

Definition of Constituency

Definition of Strategy

Identification of Impediments

Identification of Constituency

Tactical Plan

Evaluation of Impediments

Negotiations

Definition of Strategy

Source: R. de Neufville