

# GPP

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Public policy changes occur through two primary mechanisms: substantial disruption and incrementalism

Even though both of these mechanisms involve political institutions, they appear to be an unrelated process using specific examples.

- Explain how these disparate processes create policy change? What is the role of institutions in both processes?
- Specifically, are institutions endogenous or exogenous to policy changes can disruption and incrementalism be integrated to create a fuller theoretical understanding of policy change, or should they be understood separately?

→ Public policy: public policy is whatever governments choose to do or not to do (Thomas R Dye)  
Public policy refers to the decisions, actions, and plans that governments make to address public problems.

↳ Public policy change: Public policy change refers to the process of changing laws, regulations, or other government actions that affect the public.

According to Thomas R Dye policy change

is the modification, transformation, or creation of public policies. It is a process of altering the rules, regulations and procedure that guide government action.

There are several mechanism through which Policy change can occur. but two primary mechanisms are Substantial disruption and incrementalism.

Substantial disruption and incrementalism are two different mechanisms because they represent two different approaches to policy change.

→ Substantial Disruption      Incrementalism

This mechanism of policy change involves significant and transformative shifts in existing policies or the introduction of entirely new policies. Substantial disruption may be used when there is a need for major changes to address a crisis or urgent problem. For instance, the

Incrementalism refers to a gradual and iterative approach to policy change instead of making sweeping changes. Incrementalism involves making small, incremental adjustments to existing policies over time. Incrementalism may be used when policymakers want to avoid major disruptions or conflicts, and to ensure that changes are made in

response to the COVID-19 a thoughtful and deliberate pandemic. The pandemic has way caused a substantial disruption. For instance, legalization to many aspects of daily life including healthcare, education, and the economy. United States. It has been a major policy change, it has occurred in many states and countries incrementally, through a series of small adjustments and compromises. Several governments have also provided economic relief to businesses and individuals. It has also led to significant changes in healthcare policy. States initially legalized marijuana for medical use, with strict regulations and requirements for patients and dispensaries. Over time, more states began to legalize marijuana for recreational use, with varying degrees of regulations and taxation.

→ **Incrementalism:** The incremental model of policy change/making was first presented by Charles Lindblom in his book "The Science of Muddling through" 1959. Lindblom argued that

Policy makers often face complex and uncertain problems that cannot be solved through a comprehensive, rational process planning. Instead, he suggested that policy makers should use a more incremental approach, making small, gradual adjustments to existing policies and testing different approaches over time.

### Incremental Model by Charles:

- ↳ Identify the problem: The first step in the incremental model is to identify a specific problem or issue that requires government action. For instance, policymakers may identify a problem with traffic congestion in a particular city.
- ↳ Develop a solution: The second step is to develop a solution to the problem. In the incremental model, policymakers typically start with a small, incremental change rather than a comprehensive solution. For instance, policymakers may decide to add a new bus lane to a busy street in the city to help reduce traffic congestion.
- ↳ Implement the solution: The third step is to implement the solution and monitor its effectiveness. In this model, policymakers often implement the solution on a trial basis to test its effectiveness.

before making further changes. For instance the city may implement the new bus lane on a trial basis for a few months to see if it helps reduce traffic congestion.

↳ **Evaluate the Solution:** The fourth step is to evaluate the effectiveness of the solution and make any necessary adjustments. In this model policymakers use feedback from the implementation stage to make small, incremental adjustments to the solution overtime. For instance if the new bus lane is not effective at reducing traffic congestion, policy makers may decide to remove it and try a different solution.

↳ **Repeat the process:** The final step in the incremental model is to repeat the process as needed, making small, incremental adjustments to the solution overtime. For instance policymakers may continue to make small changes to the transportation system in the city over time to address ongoing traffic congestion issues.

### → **Incrementalism and Institutions:-**

↳ Institutions play a crucial role in the incremental model of policy change. Institutions are the formal and informal rules and

procedures that govern policy making/change and they shape the context in which incremental policy changes occur.

↳ Bureaucracies as institutional actors play a significant role in policy implementations. They possess expertise, administrative capacities, and knowledge of the existing policy landscape.

Bureaucrats often prefer incremental changes as they can be implemented more smoothly and require fewer resources and disruptions. The bureaucratic process itself tends to favour incremental adjustments through routine policy reviews, administrative rulemaking, and policy experimentation.

↳ Institutions, such as legislative bodies or executives, establish formal procedures and rules for policy making/change. These procedures often prioritize incremental adjustments over radical changes. For instance legislative committees may review and amend existing laws incrementally, focusing on specific provisions rather than undertaking comprehensive overhauls.

↳ Institutions provide a platform for various stakeholders to participate in the process of policy making/change. These stakeholders such

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as interest groups, businesses, and advocacy organizations, often have vested interests in maintaining or influencing existing policies.

Incremental changes allow these stakeholders to negotiate and advocate for adjustments that align with their interests.

↳ The courts can play a role in shaping policy through the process of judicial review. Courts can interpret laws and regulations in ways that allow for small, incremental changes to policies over time.

→ **Substantial Disruption**: The term "substantial disruption" refers to a transformative shift or a significant departure from existing policies, practices, or systems in the context of policy change.

↳ Steps:

Steps involved in the substantial disruption mechanism of policy change

↳ **Triggering events or crisis**: The first step is the occurrence of a triggering event or crisis that shakes the existing policy landscape and necessitates a significant policy response. For instance, the trigger for the substantial

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disruption in healthcare policy was the long standing issue of rising healthcare costs, lack of access to affordable insurance and the growing number of uninsured individuals. This crisis ~~call~~ led to a call for comprehensive healthcare reform.

↳ **Problem recognition and Awareness:** The triggering event raises awareness about the problem or issue at hand. It leads to a recognition that the existing policies are inadequate or ineffective in addressing the challenges. For instance, the problem of inadequate healthcare coverage and rising costs became increasingly recognized and discussed by policymakers, healthcare professionals, advocacy groups and the public.

↳ **Policy Debate and Discourse:** Substantial disruption spark intense policy debates and discussions among stakeholders, policymakers, experts, and the public. Different perspectives and interests are brought to the forefront and a wide range of policy options are considered. This stage involves exchanging ideas, analyzing the root causes of the problems and exploring potential solutions. For instance a significant policy debate emerged around the best approach to address healthcare challenges, stakeholders



with differing interests, such as insurers, healthcare providers, patient advocacy groups and policymakers engaged in discussions on various policy options, including a public option, individual mandates, and insurance market reforms.

- ↳ **Mobilization and Advocacy:** Social movements, advocacy organizations, and policy entrepreneurs mobilize public support and advocate for substantial policy change. They engage in activities such as protests, rallies, media campaigns, lobbying, and public outreach to generate awareness, influence public opinion and pressure policymakers to take action.
- ↳ **Policy Analysis and Proposal:** Policy analysts and experts conduct research, data analysis, and evaluation to provide evidence-based insights into the problem and potential solutions. They propose comprehensive policy reforms, innovative approaches, or alternative policies that address the underlying issues and promote substantial change.
- ↳ **Political Decision-Making:** Policymakers, influenced by the public discourse, advocacy efforts, and policy analysis, engage in the decision making

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process. They assess the various proposals, negotiate political compromises, and make choices about the direction and scope of the substantial policy change. This stage involves legislative actions, executive orders, or regulatory reforms. For instance, the ACA, also known as "Obamacare" was ultimately passed by congress in 2010. It included provisions for expanding Medicaid, introducing health insurance exchanges, providing subsidies to low-income individuals and implementing insurance market regulations.

↳ Policy Implementation and Evaluation: Substantial disruption policy changes require careful implementation and monitoring. New policies or reforms are put into action, and their outcomes are evaluated to assess their effectiveness, impact, and unintended consequences. This step may involve adjusting and refining the policy based on feedback and learning from the implementation process.

→ Role of Institutions:

↳ Legislative institutions such as parliaments or congresses, are often involved in substantial policy change. They may pass laws, amend

existing legislation, or create new legislative frameworks in response to the disruptive event or crisis. Legislatures provide a forum for debates, negotiations, and decision-making on significant policy shift.

↳ The executive branch is responsible for implementing policies and laws. In times of policy change executive branch propose or initiate policy changes.

↳ Judicial Institutions, can be involved in substantial policy change. They may be called upon to review the constitutionality of existing policies or to adjudicate the legal challenges related to disruptive event or crisis. Judicial institutions play a crucial role in interpreting laws and ensuring the conformity of policy changes with legal frameworks.