Materials for teachers 3C
Suggestions for extensions and follow-ups

1. **How do parties reflect social cleavages?**
   - Student handout 3.5 and discussion
     - What cleavages exist in our society?
     - How do the parties in our country reflect these cleavages?
     - What decisions and compromises have been made?

2. **Pluralism**
   - What interest groups and NGOs are present in politics?
   - Which interests are well organised? Which are not?

3. **Compromise**
   In democracies, pluralism generates the necessity for compromise. Different views are held on this:
   1. From the individual player's point of view: compromise is the price to pay for power. Good ideas are watered down to a second best solution.
   2. From a general point of view: pluralism generates competition; the players keep each other in check and ensure that none of them becomes too powerful. Pluralism in society has the same effect as checks and balances do in a constitution.
   3. Viewed from the output perspective: pluralism generates the necessity to compromise. Decisions that go to extremes are rare. This supports social cohesion.
      - Which of these views are confirmed by a reality check in your country, e.g. a case study?

4. **Comparing democracy and dictatorship**
   - Student handout 3.4
     - How do democracies and dictatorships handle diverse interests and views?
     - What decisions are made? (Criteria for comparison: inclusion of interests, efficiency, articulation of criticism, role of the media.)

5. **The two dimensions of politics**
   Max Weber: 13
   1. "Politics may be compared to slowly and strongly boring holes through thick planks, both with passion and good judgment."
   2. "Whoever is active in politics strives for power."
   - How did we experience the two dimensions of politics in this unit?
   - How do political actors balance these two dimensions in our country?

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