

How Institutions Change

Political Science

Why institutions persist, and how they shift when they do.

Modes of gradual change.

Mode	What happens
Layering	New rules added alongside old ones
Drift	Rules unchanged as conditions shift around them
Conversion	Existing rules redirected to new purposes
Displacement	Old rules removed and replaced
Exhaustion	Rules gradually cease to function

Educational reference. Drift is the least visible: doing nothing while circumstances change is itself a policy choice.