

17.588f13 Week 11 Paper Topic Option #2

In 1999, four prominent individuals from the overwhelmingly Hasidic community of New Square, New York were convicted of misdirecting millions in U.S. government funds. In her 2000 Senate race, then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton won over 99% of the vote in the Village of New Square (close to 1,400 votes, against 12 for Republican candidate Rick Lazio). Two and a half months later, on his last day in office, President William Clinton used his pardon power to commute the sentences of the imprisoned community leaders. Does this episode constitute clientelism?

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