D. Savoie, *Court Government and the Collapse of Accountability in Canada and the United Kingdom* (Toronto UTP, 2008), ch. 10

**Overview**

Both Cdn and UK govts have moved away from formal processes and clear hierarchies to informal relations and flattened hierarchies – more akin to court govt than to cabinet govt. As Chretien notes it “w/in Cabinet, a minister is merely part of a collectivity, just another advisor to the PM”

**Background**

* Mobility in senior ranks of civil service now highly valued – and is for many an important measure of success
* The idea, that first gained prominence under Trudeau, is that successful civil servants should be generalists capable of serving virtually anywhere in govt – if one has the necessary policy/admin skills, then these should be applicable anywhere
  + It also worked in line with the idea that entrenched bureaucrats had too much influence or power over policy and administration, running departments like personal fiefdoms
* Unlike politicians, who must secure public confidence every 4-5 years, senior civil servants enjoy tenure and are rarely fired
* Chapter reviews these elite relationships

**Court Government**

* Provides quick and unencumbered access to the levels of power that make things happen and to pick and choose those political, policy, and administrative issues that appeal the PM or need resolution due to media attention
* Suits the PM and their courtiers b/c it enables them to get things done, see results, manage the news and the media better
* Not all ministers are created equal
* Centralizes power in the hands of a few important ministers, and DMs – but with little institutional memory to ensure that things proceed well.