

Introduction to Comparative Politics

State

- State
- Sovereignty
- Regime (democratic/ authoritarian)
- Government
- Legitimacy (3 types)
- Federalism / Unitary states
- Devolution
- Strong / Weak/ Failed states
- Capacity
- Autonomy
- Consensus/ Coercion

Democracy

- Democracy (Direct/ Indirect)
- Power
- 3 foundations of democratic society
- Mercantilism
- Magna Carta
- Modernization theory
- Civil society, Civil liberties, Political Rights
- Rule of Law (/by law)
- Delegative Democracy

Democratic Political Institutions

- 3 branches (ex/ jud/ leg)
- Executive: head of state & head of gov
- Legislature: unicameral & bicameral
- Judiciary: constitutional court & judicial review (concrete/ abstract)
- Legislative - executive relations (parliamentary/ presidential/ semi-)
- Electoral system (PR (MMD) / SMD / Mixed)

The UK

- Magna Carta
- Parliamentary System: Upper (House of Lords - 800 seats) & Lower (House of Commons - 650 seats) every 5 years
- Political parties: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats
- Electoral system: First Past The Post
- Hung Parliament - Coalition

The US

- Checks and balances: President - head of state & head of government
- Congress: House of Repr (435) & Senate (100)
- Supreme Court (9)
- Republicans (Conservative) and Democrats (liberals)
- Electoral college (270 out of 538)
- Federalism: separation of powers
- Bill of rights
- Electoral system:

AIDs

- Robust market economy, democratic consolidation & quality of life
- Modern system of governance
- Varieties of Capitalism
- Postmodernism, integration, devolution
- Secular

Germany

- Chancellor - Head of Gov
- President - Head of state
- Lower: Bundestag (709) & Upper: Bundesrat (69 - federal council)
- Mixed electoral system
- Federal Constitutional Court
- Party: Christian Democratic Union & Social Democratic Party

Authoritarian regime

- Absence of 3 pillars
- Small group of political actors
- Autocratic institutions
- Totalitarianism
- Corporatism / Clientelism
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Russian Federation

- President - head of state
- PM - head of gov, appointed by president
- State Duma (450), Federation Council (170)
- Constitutional Court
- United Russia
- 85 federal subjects - asymmetrical federalism
- Putin Power
- Ukraine crisis
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Political Violence and Terrorism

- Actors (individuals/groups and organizations/ states)
- Terrorism (costly signaling) - goals
- Strategies of terrorism (attrition/ intimidation/ provocation/ spoiling/ outbidding)
- Guerrilla Warfare
- Insurgency
- Failed states

Protest and Revolution

- Revolutionary factors
- Collective action problem
- Explaining success and failure
- Factors: mass participation, regime defections, flexible tactics

Iran

- 1979 Iranian Revolution
- Supreme Leader (Head of state & Head of government)
- Constitution
- Guardian Council
- Revolutionary Guard and Basij
- Majlis (Legislature) and Sharia Law (Supreme court)

Soviet Union

- Color revolution
- Regime Cycle
- Political machines
- Challenges (Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Georgia)
- Political Transition

Modernization Theory - China

- Modernization theory
- Communism
- Chinese Communist Party Rule
- General Secretary of the CCP, President of the PRC, Chair of CMC
- Civil Society

Developmental State - Japan

- Developmental State
- Current Issues (Demographic crisis, Immigration bias, Gender issues)
- National Diet (SMD/PR)
- Prime minister (head of government)
- House of councilors (242), House of Representatives (475)
- Supreme Court

Central Asia

- Readings

Globalization