

AP Comparative Politics Summer Assignment  
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Due Date: September 2, 2008  
Length of Hours: 10 hours  
100pts.

“The 21<sup>st</sup> century has taught us that we cannot ignore the world around us. Happenings around the globe now directly impact our lives, and social studies teachers and students around the country face the challenge of interpreting complex, puzzling events. The AP comparative course focuses on government and politics in other countries and provides a theoretical framework to compare political systems around the world.” – Ethel Wood

**Course Description:** This is a one year course designed to give students an analytical perspective on global politics. Students will focus on the governments of the United States as well as the diverse political structures of the United Kingdom, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, China and Iran. Comparisons will be made in terms of power structures, political institutions, citizen participation, political and economic change, and public policy. Students will be exposed to different theoretical and practical frameworks that are the foundations for a variety of political systems.

**Summer Assignment:**

- a. Assemble a Comparative Government 3 Ring Binder containing the following sections: United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria and Iran. Use dividers between sections. Each section should include a table of contents page with country heading, title and source for each article.
- b. During the summer collect four news articles per country. The articles should provide you with information about the political, economic, and/or foreign policy issues, which confront each nation. Articles may come from newspapers, periodicals, magazines, and/or the Internet. Possible sources include but are not limited to:
  - New York Times – [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
  - Time Magazine – [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)
  - BBC - [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)
  - CIA - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- c. Highlight the material in each article, which makes reference to the political structures and practices of the nation under discussion. Look closely for information about the six themes of the Comparative Government course:
  - i. The Comparative Method – (Empirical data versus normative issues)
  - ii. Sovereignty, Authority, and Power
  - iii. Political and Economic Change
  - iv. Citizens, Society and the State

v. Political Institutions

vi. Public Policy

Label each highlighted comment in each article with the applicable theme of the course. Comment in the margins, sharing your thoughts about what you have read.

d. Four articles per nation are the minimum number of articles required. Though extra credit will not be awarded for collecting, highlighting and labeling additional articles, you may include as many articles in the binder as you wish to read.

e. When commenting in the margins of articles please comment on the following concepts or terms. Definitions for these terms may be found on-line at the textbook website.

[http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product\\_isbn\\_issn=0534590535&discipline\\_number=20](http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=0534590535&discipline_number=20)

Decision-making

Industrialized democracy

Globalization

Newly Industrialized Countries

Political Culture

Democratization

International Political Economy

Imperialism

Bureaucracy

Cleavage

Coalition

Fascism

Interest Group

Legitimacy

Nationalization

f. Grading: Please see attached rubric for grading policy

g. Journals will be collected during the first class of the new school year