

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLITICS

Debunking Statistical Myths

Swedish professor Hans Rosling analyzes global statistics in this entertaining presentation given at TED in 2006.

Leadership in Iran

How does the Ayatollah's role in Iranian politics effect the legitimacy of the government? The following sources explore the relationship between charismatic leadership and institutional authority.

Oligarchy: Mexico and Brazil

Using a selection from "Rural Incorporation and Regime Durability in Brazil" by Ana Cristina Araújo Alves, this assignment explores the differing fates of oligarchies in Mexico and Brazil.

Nigeria's Political Actors

Nigeria presents a case study of how people use politics to get what they want, or how they are prevented from doing so. This article explores the role of political parties and sponsors in agenda formation.

THE SETTING OF POLITICS

Sharia Law

What is the ongoing battle between Nigeria's Christian and Muslim populations? Does religious identity promote or hinder national identity?

China's Space Program

This assignment investigates the role propaganda plays in political agenda and in garnering public support for government projects.

The Communist Manifesto

In an excerpt from The Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels explore the relationship between religion and policy.

Good Cop, Bad Cop

Mexico's drug wars exacerbate rifts between local and federal law enforcement agencies. This news article demonstrates the challenges of working within multi-tiered political systems.

ECONOMIC CLASS, DEVELOPMENT, AND GLOBALIZATION

China's Wealth Gaps

These documentary clips explore the Chinese government's role in urban development and land rights for China's citizens.

Global Health Equity

This excerpt from a World Health Organization report investigates the connection between public health and social conditions.

Labor and the Informal Economy

How does the informal economy effect economic rights? This video footage explores the relationship.

India's Growing Pains

With an abundance of technology jobs available to India's college educated, what could be bad about modernization there? These stories reveal the shortcomings.

POLITICAL CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY

Comparing Cultural Dimensions

This assignment uses Geert Hofstede's model of Cultural Dimensions to compare and contrast the cultures of China and India.

Religious Tensions

A certain Indian mosque has been a source of conflict between Muslims and Hindus for over 150 years. This timeline tracks the development of tensions between these ideologies.

Banning the Hijab

A French law threatens to ban Muslim headscarves from schools. This assignment explores the tension between religious expression and secular authority.

Socialization Factors in Brazil

Does an examination of family life in Brazil expand our understanding of socialization processes? What is the relationship between economic growth and family life?

IDENTITY STRUCTURE

Islam in Xingjian

This short film documents the ways that the Uyghur independence movement is complicating the position of other Chinese Muslims and how the Chinese government is responding.

Dividing India

When Britain left India to her independence, an ethnic war ensued. How have ethnic divisions shaped the India's history?

Redefining Scotland

The Scottish National Party is seeking to redefine Scotland's relationship to England. What factors influence this movement towards independence?

Racial Inequality in Mexico

This journal article explores the complex interplay of race, class, and national identity in Mexico.

POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND RULES

Nazi Propaganda

This chilling film from the 1930's shows the connections between anti-Semitism and the Nazi form of totalitarianism.

Debate in Parliament

This glimpse inside Parliament gives a look at the Queen's Speech, in which the British government outlines its policies for the coming year.

Occupied France

After the French defeat in 1940, Germany occupied much of France. But the new French government at Vichy had its own policy agenda.

The Role of the EU

A fisherman is served by having access to international waters, and so votes in favor of a European Constitution that would provide him that privilege. But many others in Europe don't want a European Constitution.

LEGISLATURES AND EXECUTIVES

Regime Seeks Leader

This online lecture looks at France's foreign policy during the transition from the fourth to fifth republic. Special emphasis is given to France's relationships with her colonies.

Putin on Term Limitations

Vladimir Putin's expansion of power may be a sign of creeping authoritarianism. How much power should a president have in deciding term limits?

Ahmadinejad's Perspectives

Some revere President Ahmadinejad as a populist, while many distrust him. This assignment investigates his political prowess.

Re-Inventing India's Government

How does India's interest in redefining the government effect the future of the country? Who should decide her fate?

THE UNELECTED COMPONENTS OF GOVERNMENT

Habeas Corpus Suspended

For nearly 2 years during the 1970's, India was ruled under a state of emergency. Among other provisions, the right of the accused to appear in court was suspended.

Nigeria's Oil War

Since 1960 Nigeria has experienced long periods of military rule. Even when civilians have ruled, the military has played an active role. The current oil situation illustrates Nigeria's dependence on military involvement.

The Chinese Bureaucracy

These sources discuss the Chinese bureaucracy, from both theoretical and functional perspectives.

Brazil's Indigenous People

Although Brazilian law provides land rights for indigenous peoples, these rights are often nullified by administrative decisions. Is there an appropriate balance?

PARTICIPATION, CLIENTELISM, AND INTEREST GROUPS

Protests in France

These clips identify two forms of French political protest and explore the differing levels of power between some citizens and 'elites'.

Clientelism in Mexico City

This essay explores how clientelism in Mexico City is effecting the legitimacy of the government.

Jewel of the Amazon

After diamonds are discovered in Brazil, a black market develops, followed by political corruption. This documentary explores the situation.

Nigeria's Transition

The transition from military rule in Nigeria has involved shifts in elite politics. What role do political elites play in society, politics, and policy?

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Conservatives in Britain

These short videos explore how British conservatives are cooperating with and learning from other European conservative parties.

Mexico Candidacy Battle

After generations of political domination, Mexico's leading political party opens its presidential candidacy to new directions.

United Russia

As former president Putin devises new ways to retain power, the political role of his own party, United Russia, simultaneously shifts.

German Election

The complications of the 2005 election reveal the idiosyncrasies of German politics.

LEADERSHIP AND INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL CHOICES

Helmut Kohl

Germany's longtime Chancellor steps down. NPR discusses his lasting legacy on both the EU and Germany.

Khomeini Returns

Iranian Ayottallah Ruhollah Khomeini returns to the country after 14 years in exile. BBC chronicles Iran's response.

Brazil's President

Brazil's president Lula da Silva has become very influential in Latin America and the developing world. In this interview he speaks of his role in Brazil's future.

China's Political Art

An array of political posters from China examine the intentions of the government and the role of the individual in perpetuating the government's agenda.

REGIME TRANSITIONS

Russia Part One: Heresy in the USSR

This two part PBS film chronicles early economic reforms while the USSR was still in being.

Russia Part Two: Soviet Free Fall

In part two, PBS traces the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transition to a new economic system.

Denazification

A report on denazification and an interview with Konrad Adenauer both examine post World War II Germany.

France's Fifth Republic

A journal article from 1960, two years after the founding of the French Fifth Republic, analyzes French politics from a socialist point of view.

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Death by Privatization

Privatization has had a tremendous impact on the Russian people. How has Russia's government responded to the phenomenon?

Oil for Iran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad attempts to use oil revenues for social purposes, but is constrained by both internal and external factors.

A Shadow Minister's Thoughts

As Britain's shadow minister of health, Andrew Lansley is developing the Conservative health care policy. A statement from the Labour party also outlines their view.

China's Economic Growth

China's economic growth has led to a massive immigration of workers into cities from the countryside, creating serious instability. This documentary looks at the effects.