
PREFACE

The enormous success of the second edition of *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction* was extremely gratifying. The book was adopted by professors at a large number of colleges and universities and by high school teachers throughout the United States. It was also used at various universities around the world. In 2006 a Spanish version of the book, *Política y Ciencia Política: Una Introducción*, was published under the supervision of Professor José Ignacio Torreblanca of the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia in Madrid. We are very grateful for the positive reactions we have received from instructors and students alike, and we are grateful as well for the suggestions we have received for improving the book's content. In view of the encouraging feedback—and valid criticisms—the second edition received, the present edition retains the basic structure of the last edition while adding a considerable amount of new material.

What's the Same?

A Global Approach This book takes a “global” approach to comparative politics not only with respect to the number of countries that are treated but also with respect to the topics and analytical techniques that we explore. Like the first two editions of *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, the third edition has three ambitious goals: (1) to introduce readers to the *conceptual foundations* of comparative politics; (2) to enhance their *analytical and critical-thinking skills* through an introduction to some of the basic empirical techniques of political science; and (3) to promote their understanding of a wide range of *countries and political leaders*.

Concepts Unlike some introductory texts on comparative politics, this book is not limited to just a chapter-by-chapter treatment of individual countries. We believe that comparative politics needs to be understood conceptually, with a clear treatment of core concepts and theories and a firm grounding in academic scholarship. The fifteen chapters that make up Part One (“Concepts and Critical Thinking”) therefore address such fundamental topics of comparative politics as *democracy and democratization; human rights; authoritarianism; class, ethnicity, gender, religion*, and other aspects of *political sociology; power; state institutions; nationalism; supranationalism; electoral systems; voting behavior; parties, interest groups, NGOs, and social movements; political culture; ideology; dissent and revolution; political economy; political development*, and other key concepts. Drawn from classic works of political science and political philosophy as well as from some of the latest scholarly literature, these ideas come to life through numerous illustrative examples reflecting recent events around the world.

Democracy and democratization occupy an especially prominent place throughout the book. In addition to defining these concepts in a way that illuminates their various components and variations, we present a list of ten conditions for democracy whose presence often contributes to the creation and consolidation of democracy and whose absence can thwart democracy’s very emergence or undermine its chances for long-term success. These ten factors provide a framework for the comparative analysis of democracies and nondemocracies of all kinds. We have also retained our *eclectic approach* to comparative politics by exposing readers to a wide range of conceptual and theoretical orientations, both traditional and contemporary. This book does not confine itself to just one approach, such as structural-functionalism.

Critical Thinking One of this book’s unique features is that it seeks to enhance the *critical-thinking skills* of its readers by exposing them to some of the ways that scientific logic applies to the study of politics. In addition to introducing students to the study of comparative politics, this volume introduces them to various *analytical techniques of political science*. We believe that today’s students need to take every available opportunity to improve their ability to think logically and systematically, irrespective of where their main interests may lie or where their career paths may take them. Political science offers a superb opportunity to sharpen analytical thinking. Our approach to political analysis is elementary and understandable; this book is *not* a text on quantitative methods or research methodology. At a rudimentary level and in a clearly written fashion, it explains the application of such elementary scientific concepts as *theories, hypotheses, dependent and independent variables, correlations, models, and paradigms* to the study of political phenomena. It also walks students through the logic of qualitative hypothesis testing and provides numerous examples of how it is done. To drive home the step-by-step logic of this analytical technique, virtually every chapter in the book contains a *hypothesis-testing exercise*. Like the conceptual definitions introduced in Part One, these exercises are taken

from real-world political events and from influential works by scholars and political thinkers.

Countries and Leaders *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, third edition, seeks to provide as much breadth and depth as possible in covering an assortment of countries around the world. In every case we strive to integrate our treatment of these countries with the conceptual and analytical frameworks we employ. Part One includes sections on a number of countries or regions with the aim of illustrating particular concepts treated in individual chapters. Part Two (“Countries and Leaders”) consists of eight chapters covering ten major states: *the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, China, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, and South Africa*. Each of these chapters highlights key historical events in the country under investigation and describes its political system in detail. To enliven these accounts and illustrate how personalities interact with institutions, all these chapters contain vivid biographical profiles of important political leaders. These capsule biographies provide substantial material for core courses focused on political *leadership*. The country chapters also treat some of the most controversial issues affecting political developments in these states—such as human rights, ethnic or religious conflict, and economic policy—and they invite readers to make comparisons with the ways roughly similar issues are dealt with in their own country. Although there is no chapter devoted specifically to the United States, this book makes numerous explicit comparisons between other countries and the U.S. political system with respect to political institutions and policy issues.

Clarity and Readability Like the first two editions, this third edition of our book seeks to unite high scholarly standards with an engaging style. This is not a dumbed-down textbook, nor is it excessively advanced for introductory students. All the contributors are accomplished scholars with a commitment to educating students. We want our readers to appreciate the relevance of concepts and ideas to the events they read about and see on television. We also want this book to be interesting, clear, and readable. The responses we have received to the first two editions have convinced us that there is a wide audience for a conceptually sophisticated introduction to comparative politics. We have worked hard to make the third edition of *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction* even better.

What’s New?

The most challenging aspect of writing a survey of comparative politics is the volatile nature of the subject matter. Political realities are changing all the time, despite the persistence of long-term trends and tendencies. The first edition of *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction* came out in late 2000. Less than a year later, the United States was shaken by the events of September 11, 2001—events that were to have lingering repercussions around the world. The second edition was

completed in 2003, only months after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. These occurrences, which took place just as much of the world was getting used to the end of the Cold War and looking forward to the future with fresh optimism, inevitably gave rise to new political priorities around the globe. Among other things, they heightened the significance of the relationship between Islam and the non-Islamic world, they focused new attention on the Middle East, and they raised pressing questions about the prospects for democracy in nondemocratic countries. Inevitably, the new edition of this book reflects the salience of these and related issues. Meanwhile, academic scholarship has added new insights and ideas on just about every aspect of comparative politics. Although it is of course impossible to refer to every new development in this vast field, our global approach has required us to pay close attention to some of the most important advances in the scholarly literature.

The third edition of *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction* updates our coverage through the end of 2006. It also includes the following new features:

- A revised presentation of the concept of democracy in chapter 7 (“Democracy: What Is It?”) that graphically illustrates democracy’s various components in the form of a Greek temple—the *Temple of Democracy*
- A new chapter that compares *Afghanistan* and *Iraq* to the ten conditions for democracy, thoroughly covering important historical developments in these countries as well as the main events of recent years
- New sections in Part One on *Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon, Sudan, and Ukraine*
- Revised and expanded sections that deal with the *European Union, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority, South Korea, Turkey, and the former Yugoslavia*
- New or updated conceptual material on *civil wars, failed states, globalization, human development theory, human rights, Islam, nation-building, terrorism, torture, transnational social movements, welfare states, women in politics, world values, and other subjects*

We have made a few additional changes and adjustments in Part One as well. Our analyses of the large countries covered in Part Two have also been updated to take account of the most important developments occurring up to the end of 2006.