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THIRD EDITION

# **COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

Political Economy, Political Culture, and Political Interdependence

**Monte Palmer** 

# **Comparative Politics**

# Political Economy, Political Culture, and Political Interdependence

Third Edition

Monte Palmer





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### **PREFACE**

The field of comparative politics is witnessing an ongoing debate over the relative importance of economic, cultural, and international factors in the shaping of political events. Some of the current comparative government texts embrace one perspective to the detriment of the others, while other texts ignore the debate altogether. The present text starts from the premise that each of the above approaches offers important insights into comparative political analysis but that none, of itself, adequately conveys the richness of the political process. The text also integrates the insights provided by culture, economics, and international interdependence with the traditional comparative emphasis on institutions, elites, parties, groups, and mass behavior.

The vision of comparative politics presented in this text also integrates the "political development" and "advanced industrial society" perspective of comparative politics and stresses the defining issues of the coming decade: democracy, human rights, economic reform, social equality, and environmental degradation.

The third edition of *Comparative Politics* also reflects the changes that have occurred in the world community since the publication of the second edition. The third edition of *Comparative Politics* has been extensively revised and contains a much-needed chapter on the European Union. It also addresses the influence of the war on terror on the politics of the diverse countries covered in this text. That influence has been profound.

The third edition has been written with the student in mind. Every effort has been made to make this edition both readable and informative. Jargon has been kept to a minimum. Terms that are defined in the glossary are printed in boldface type the first time they appear in each chapter. Thus, the same term may appear in boldface in more than one chapter.

Also, you can find the book's companion Website at http://political science.wadsworth.com/palmer03/, where additional materials and updates will be posted. A Multimedia Manager with Instructor Resources CD is available to all adopting instructors. It includes a Test Bank in Microsoft® Word and ExamView® computerized testing, an Instructor's Manual, PowerPoint® Lecture Outlines, and video clips. Please contact your Wadsworth representative for details.



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ed Peacock and Dick Welna inspired this book. Ted's retirement from the publishing business is a matter of great sorrow for all who knew him. I shall miss working with both him and Dick. Ted was very pleased by Wadsworth's acquisition of F. E. Peacock, Publishers, as am I. It has been a pleasure working with David Tatom and Rebecca Green on the third edition of *Comparative Politics*.

I would like to thank the instructors who reviewed *Comparative Politics* for its third edition: David Coates, Wake Forest University; Edward Fox, Western Connecticut State University; Ronald A. Francisco, University of Kansas; Chris Hamilton, Washburn University; Xiaobo Hu, Clemson University; Paul J. Kubicek, Oakland University; Patricia H. Kushlis, University of New Mexico; and Jane G. Rainey, Eastern Kentucky University.

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Monte Palmer Tallahassee, May 1, 2005



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