UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICAL WORLD

A Comparative Introduction To Political Science

JAMES N. DANZIGER

SECOND EDITION

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A Comparative Introduction To Political Science

JAMES N. DANZIGER

University of California, Irvine

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Understanding the Political World:
A Comparative Introduction to
Political Science, Second Edition

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Arctic Ocean
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Greenland
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U.S.
Iceland
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Canada
United States
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Western
Sahara
U.S.
Mexico
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Dominican
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Haiti
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Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica
Venezuela
Guyana
Sierra Leone
Panama
Suriname
Liberia
Colombia
French Guiana
(France)
Equator
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Ecuador
Brazil
Peru
Bolivia
Paraguay
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Uruguay
Argentina
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South
Atlantic
Ocean
60
Robinson Projection
Scale 1:134,000,000
120
60

*Former Yugoslavia
C.A.R. - Central African Republic
U.A.E. - United Arab Emigrates

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Preface

It is always exciting to introduce students to political science. The present moment is extraordinary, because many of our ideas and theories are particularly energized by the real world of politics. One of the two great superpowers (and its empire) has broken into more than two dozen new countries, both nationalism and multinationalism are strong forces pulling in opposite directions, and there is an effort to establish a "new world order." Many countries have abandoned the economic and political ideas associated with communism, and there are widespread attempts to implement more democratic politics and more market-oriented political economies.

OBJECTIVES

The central objective of this book is, as its title indicates, to help students better understand the political world. It attempts to link the central analytic concepts of political science that have emerged over generations of research to the realities of the post–cold war world. These changes influence the examples and discussion on many of the topics in this text. The emphasis is on concepts and empirical research that illuminate the processes and structures of politics. The level of analysis ranges from the individual's political beliefs and actions through the politics of groups, states, and the international system. This text asks students to assess whether it is possible and useful to develop generalizations about political phenomena. It combines attention to systematic descriptive analysis—the "what?" questions—with efforts to explain underlying patterns—the "why?" and "how?" questions. And students are continually reminded that they must consider the important normative questions that are embedded in most issues about politics. Many topics are also presented in a manner that encourages the student to think as a political scientist, structuring questions and assessing evidence in order to make inferences.

FEATURES

This second edition has retained key features of the first edition:

- A strong, comparative framework
- Coverage of micropolitics, macropolitics, and international relations
- Focus on political economy, including a complete chapter on this important topic
- Thorough analyses of key political processes
- An engaging, readable style

In addition, we present many boxed discussions that offer rich, memorable examples of key concepts and issues, such as the different paths of political activism taken by Gandhi and Abu Nidal, the rational choice perspective on why one should not vote, the role of the media during the Gulf War, the effects of colonialism and neocolonialism on Zaire, the conflict between state and nations in the United Kingdom and in India, the extensive social control exercised by the state in Singapore, and the American imposition of a constitution on Japan.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

In addition to updated examples throughout the book, certain features are new to this edition:

- A new chapter on political communication, with particular emphasis on the political impacts of the new telecommunications technologies
- A unique analytic framework for classifying the countries in the post–cold war world

  —the more developed countries (ch. 15)

  —the developing countries (ch. 17)

  —key transitional countries: the post-communist states emerging from the Soviet empire, the newly industrialized countries, and the Islamic states of the Middle East (ch. 16)
- A substantially revised chapter on international relations (ch. 14), including such changes in the post–cold war world as the growing role of the United Nations and multinational corporations
- Discussions of change and development to reflect the growing global emphasis on democratic politics and market-based economic development
- Major political ideologies, detailed in Chapter 2 on political beliefs

ORGANIZATION

The second edition retains the conceptual framework of the first edition, focusing on micropolitics and macropolitics.

- Chapter 1 and the Appendix introduce students to the logic of political science and the methods of political analysis.
- Chapters 2 through 5 examine political behavior at the individual and group level, describing and explaining the causes of individual political beliefs and actions.
- Chapters 6 through 9 emphasize the structural and institutional elements of political systems, offering analytic frameworks for characterizing the different ways in which people organize themselves politically.
- Chapters 10 through 13 analyze interesting and important political processes, such as decision making, communication, development, and violence.
- Chapter 14 examines the patterns of cooperation, competition, and conflict between countries in the international environment.
- Chapters 15 through 17 then explain in detail how certain groups of countries try to achieve their broad goals of prosperity, stability, and security within that complex international environment. Specific analysis is provided for the more developed countries, the post-communist developed countries, the newly industrialized countries, the Islamic states of the Middle East, and the developing countries of the Third World.
- Chapter 18 concludes with a prospective assessment of the major political challenges in the early twenty-first century.

AUDIENCE

This book is written for any person who wants to enrich his or her basic understanding of the political world and to learn how political scientists attempt to describe and explain politics. Such a person might be in an introductory course in political science or comparative politics, but could also be in a "capstone" course. And such a person might be any individual who wants to think about the fascinating and confusing world of politics in a more informed and systematic way.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are many sources of ideas and information that constitute the basis of *my* understanding about politics. Broadly, you should know that I was born and have primarily been educated in the United States. I have studied, lived, and/or spent

significant periods in North America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa. The people I met and the events I experienced in these places have certainly influenced my perceptions about politics. More direct contributions to this book have come from my colleagues in political science and from the many students with whom I have interacted. I have drawn deeply and often from the ideas of these two important groups.

Explicit guidance and advice regarding the writing of this book have come from several valuable sources: the cadre at Longman, including my editors David Shapiro, David Estrin, and Irv Rockwood, my developmental editor Susan Alkana, and Ann Kearns and Owen Lancer; scholarly colleagues who have offered useful suggestions, including Robert Hazen, Matt Shugart, and Vera Simone; and friends and students who have provided specific material for the book, including Paul Castor, Mark Doose, Frank Faye, Gladys Gardiner, and Erik Siddons. The reviewers, who offered thoughtful and constructive commentaries, are:

Sam H. Farahani—San Diego Mesa College
Arthur B. Gunlicks—University of Richmond
Brij B. Khare—California State University, San Bernardino
Kay Knickrehm—James Madison University
George Masannat—Western Kentucky University
Anthony Neal—Buffalo State University
David Porter—Youngstown State University
Marvin Rogers—University of Missouri, Columbia
Stephen Rozman—Tougaloo College
C. Neal Tate—University of North Texas
Helga A. Welsh—University of Arizona
Park Yung—Northeastern University

I am grateful for the help provided by all these sources. Yet this book, and especially the roads not taken and the missteps remaining, are my responsibility.

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To the Reader

The aim of this book is revealed by its title: it is meant to help you understand the political world. It assumes that you are interested in politics. It does not assume that you have substantial knowledge about politics or political science. It does not assume you know the difference between politics and political science. I hope that when you complete the book (especially in conjunction with instruction about politics from a teacher), you will feel that you have increased your knowledge about the contemporary political world.

The study of politics is full of fascinating questions. First are the questions about *what is:* Who exercises political power and what values and purposes guide them? Why do people accept political authority? How do people organize themselves politically? What causes individuals and groups to take political action? A second set of questions concerns *what ought to be:* Who should exercise political power and what values should they pursue? Why should people accept political authority? How should political structures be organized? Why should individuals and groups act politically? There are sharp disagreements about answers to both these descriptive (what is) and normative (what ought to be) questions. In addition, the study of politics provokes a third set of questions regarding what we can actually know about the political world. Here also there are major disagreements about the appropriate methods for describing and understanding politics.

Although this book cannot resolve the underlying disputes, it offers you the basis for making sense out of politics at all three levels. As author, I make some basic assumptions: that you can think systematically about politics and make general statements about how politics works; that you will learn more about politics by considering the politics of many different places; that every observer of politics (certainly including you and me) has biases, only some of which can be understood; that you need a variety of sources of ideas and information before you can make informed and sensible decisions about the value disagreements pervading politics;

and that this book is one such source that can be helpful to you. My efforts will be successful to the extent that *you* ultimately judge my assumptions to be correct (especially the last one . . .)

It is inevitable that you will be frustrated with the treatment of politics at some (many?) points in this book. I would say: Reader, be merciful! The study of politics is incredibly complex. Gather bits of understanding where you can find them.

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