

ANNUAL EDITIONS

Comparative Politics

04/05



A·N·N·U·A·L E·D·I·T·I·O·N·S

Comparative Politics

04/05

Twenty-Second Edition

EDITOR

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California State University, Long Beach

Christian S   was born in Denmark, studied at the University of British Columbia and the University of Michigan, and received his doctoral degree in political science at the Free University in Berlin. He is professor in political science at California State University in Long Beach, where he teaches courses in comparative politics. His research deals primarily with political developments in contemporary Germany. He visits that country annually to conduct research on political parties and elections. In these and other ways, he attempts to follow shifts in the balance of power and changes in political orientation within Germany as now represented by a new "red-green" coalition and a new generation of leaders in Berlin. The early phase of this transition in German politics is a main topic of the 1999 book, which he co-edited with Mary N. Hampton, *Between Bonn and Berlin: German Politics Adrift?* He is co-editor (with David Conradt and Gerald R. Kleinfeld) of *Power Shift in Germany*, a study of the 1998 Bundestag election. The same team has co-edited another book manuscript dealing with the 2002 Bundestag election and its aftermaths in contemporary Germany. In the summer of 2004 under the title, *Precarious Victory*. The book on political parties is a biographical essay on Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany's Chancellor from 1974 to 1992, in *Political Leaders of Contemporary West Germany* represented by a new Free Democratic Party in *Germany's New Politics*; and another chapter on the Danish-German relationship in *The Germans and Their Neighbors*. Dr. S   is also co-editor of the latter two books. He has been editor of the twenty-two volumes of *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics* since the beginning of this series in 1983.

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Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title: Annual Editions: Comparative Politics. 2004/2005.

1. Comparative Politics—Periodicals. I. Sør, Christian, *comp.* II. Title: Comparative Politics.

ISBN 0-07-286145-2 658'.05 ISSN 0741-7233

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Twenty-Second Edition

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Printed in the United States of America 234567890QPDQPD0987654 Printed on Recycled Paper

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Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of ANNUAL EDITIONS. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think that you will find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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To the Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the public press in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Many of these articles are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced in a low-cost format, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS.

This collection of readings brings together current articles that will help you understand the politics of foreign countries from a comparative perspective. Such a study opens up a fascinating world beyond our borders. It will also lead to deeper insights into the American political process.

The articles in unit 1 cover Britain or the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan in a serial manner. In terms of gross domestic product, these countries all belong with the United States among the top six economies in the world. Each of these modern societies has an individual tradition of politics and governance within a particular institutional framework. Nevertheless, as the readings of unit 2 show, it is possible to point to some comparable patterns of political challenge and response among these and some other representative democracies.

Unit 3 deals with the impact of two major changes that continue to transform the political map of Europe. One of them is the irregular, sometimes halting, but nevertheless impressive growth of the European Union (EU). It has grown to 15 member countries with nearly 300 million people. In 2004, ten more countries are slated to join the EU, and later there will be more. The other and closely related major change involves the political and economic reconstruction of Central and Eastern Europe, including Russia, after the collapse of the Communist regimes in that region between 1989 and 1991. These developments underscore the continuing political importance of Europe.

Unit 4 looks first at the challenge of globalization and then turns to articles dealing with some of the developing countries and regions, including Mexico and Latin America as a whole, South Africa, Nigeria, India, China, and the Muslim world. The articles will give the careful reader a better understanding of the diversity of social and political conditions in these countries.

Unit 5 considers three major trends in contemporary politics from a comparative perspective. First, the past quarter of a century has seen a remarkable spread of democratic forms of government in the world. This recent "wave of democratization," sometimes described as the "third" of its kind in modern history, seems likely to have a lasting effect on the political process in some countries that previously knew only authoritarian governments. But there is no simple way to construct a stable democracy anywhere—least of all in countries that are divided by deep ethnic, economic, religious, and other cleavages.

Second, beginning in the 1980s there has been a major shift in economic policy toward greater reliance on private enterprise and markets, and a corresponding reduction in state ownership and regulation in much of the world, including Communist-ruled China. But there has been a reaction in the advanced industrial societies and in many developing

countries against the inequalities, dislocations, and uncertainties associated with the unfettered market economy.

Third, many parts of the world have seen a surge of what has been called "identity politics." This trend has brought group identities more strongly into play when differences are being defined, played out, and resolved in the political arena.

This is an unusually interesting and important time to study comparative politics. The past fifteen years have seen a major restructuring of politics in many countries along with a generational shift in leadership. Even in a time of political transformation, however, there will be significant patterns of continuity as well as change.

This is the twenty-second edition of *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics*. Over the years, the successive editions have reflected the developments that eventually brought about the post-cold war world of today. This present volume tries to present information and analysis that are useful in the quest to understand today's political world and the parameters it sets for tomorrow's developments.

A special word of thanks goes to my own past and present students at California State University, Long Beach. They are wonderfully inquisitive and help keep me posted on matters that this anthology must address. Several of my past students have helped me gather material. As always, I am particularly grateful to Susan B. Mason, who received her master's degree in political science over a decade ago. She continues to volunteer as a superb research assistant. Once again I also wish to thank some other past and present students at Cal State: Linda Wohlman, Erika Reinhardt, Erik Ibsen, Jon Nakagawa, Perry Oliver, Mike Petri, Richard Sherman, and Ali Taghavi. Like so many others, these individuals first encountered the anthology in my comparative politics courses. It is a great joy to have worked with such fine students. Their enthusiasm for the project has been contagious.

I am very grateful to members of the advisory board and McGraw-Hill/Dushkin as well as to the many readers who have made useful comments on past selections and suggested new ones. I ask you all to help improve future editions by keeping me informed of your reactions and suggestions for change. Please complete and return the article rating form in the back of the book.

Christian Sør
Editor

Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to the subjects covered in your course. You may want to use the topics listed on these pages to search the Web more easily.

On the following pages a number of Web sites have been gathered specifically for this book. They are arranged to reflect the units of this *Annual Edition*. You can link to these sites by going to the DUSHKIN ONLINE support site at <http://www.dushkin.com/online/>.

ALL THE ARTICLES THAT RELATE TO EACH TOPIC ARE LISTED BELOW THE BOLD-FACED TERM.

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Women in politics

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World Wide Web Sites

The following World Wide Web sites have been carefully researched and selected to support the articles found in this reader. The easiest way to access these selected sites is to go to our DUSHKIN ONLINE support site at <http://www.dushkin.com/online/>.

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The following sites were available at the time of publication. Visit our Web site—we update DUSHKIN ONLINE regularly to reflect any changes.

General Sources

Central Intelligence Agency

<http://www.odci.gov>

Use this official home page to get connections to *The CIA Factbook*, which provides extensive statistical and political information about every country in the world.

National Geographic Society

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

This site provides links to National Geographic's archive of maps, articles, and documents. There is a great deal of material related to political cultures around the world.

U.S. Agency for International Development

<http://www.info.usaid.gov>

This Web site covers such broad and overlapping issues as democracy, population and health, economic growth, and development about different regions and countries.

U.S. Information Agency

<http://usinfo.state.gov/>

This USIA page provides definitions, related documentation, and discussion of topics on global issues. Many Web links are provided.

World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org>

News (press releases, summaries of new projects, speeches) and coverage of numerous topics regarding development, countries, and regions are provided at this site.

World Wide Web Virtual Library: International Affairs Resources

<http://www.etown.edu/vl/>

Surf this site and its extensive links to learn about specific countries and regions, to research international organizations, and to study such vital topics as international law, development, the international economy, and human rights.

UNIT 1: Pluralist Democracies: Country Studies

France.com

<http://www.france.com>

The links at this site will lead to extensive information about the French government, politics, history, and culture.

GermNews

<http://www.germnews.de/dn/about/>

Search this site for German political and economic news covering the years 1995 to the present.

Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<http://www.mofa.go.jp>

Visit this official site for Japanese foreign policy statements and discussions of regional and global relations.

UNIT 2: Pluralist Democracies: Factors in the Political Process

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

<http://www.ceip.org>

This organization's goal is to stimulate discussion and learning among both experts and the public at large on a wide range of international issues. The site provides links to the well-respected journal *Foreign Policy*, to the Moscow Center, to descriptions of various programs, and much more.

Communications for a Sustainable Future

<http://csf.colorado.edu>

This site will lead you to information on topics in international environmental sustainability. It pays particular attention to the political economics of protecting the environment.

Inter-American Dialogue (IAD)

<http://www.iadialog.org>

This is the Web site for IAD, a premier U.S. center for policy analysis, communication, and exchange in Western Hemisphere affairs. The 100-member organization has helped to shape the agenda of issues and choices in hemispheric relations.

The North American Institute (NAMI)

<http://www.northamericaninstitute.org>

NAMI, a trinational public-affairs organization concerned with the emerging "regional space" of Canada, the United States, and Mexico, provides links for study of trade, the environment, and institutional developments.

UNIT 3: Europe in Transition: West, Center, and East

Europa: European Union

<http://europa.eu.int>

This server site of the European Union will lead you to the history of the EU; descriptions of EU policies, institutions, and goals; discussion of monetary union; and documentation of treaties and other materials.

NATO Integrated Data Service (NIDS)

<http://www.nato.int/structur/nids/nids.htm>

NIDS was created to bring information on security-related matters to the widest possible audience. Check out this Web site to review North Atlantic Treaty Organization documentation of all kinds, to read *NATO Review*, and to explore key issues in the field of European security.

Research and Reference (Library of Congress)

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/>

This massive research and reference site of the Library of Congress will lead you to invaluable information on the former Soviet Union and other countries attempting the transition to democracy. It provides links to numerous publications, bibliographies, and guides in area studies.

Russian and East European Network Information Center, University of Texas at Austin

<http://reenic.utexas.edu/reenic/index.html>

This is *the* Web site for information on Russia and the former Soviet Union.

UNIT 4: Political Diversity in the Developing World

Africa News Online

<http://allafrica.com/>

Open this site for extensive, up-to-date information on all of Africa, with reports from Africa's leading newspapers, magazines, and news agencies. Coverage is country-by-country and regional. Background documents and Internet links are among the resource pages.

ArabNet

<http://www.arab.net>

This home page of ArabNet, the online resource for the Arab world in the Middle East and North Africa, presents links to 22 Arab countries. Each country Web page classifies information using a standardized system of categories.

ASEAN Web

<http://www.aseansec.org/home.html>

This official site of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations provides an overview of Asian Web resources, Asian summits, economic and world affairs, political foundations, regional cooperation, and publications.

Inside China Today

<http://www.einnews.com/china/>

Part of the European Internet Network, this site leads to information on China, including recent news, government, and related sites pertaining to mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan.

InterAction

<http://www.interaction.org>

InterAction encourages grassroots action and engages government bodies and policymakers on various advocacy issues. The organization's Advocacy Committee provides this site to inform people on its initiatives to expand international humanitarian relief, refugee, and development-assistance programs.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

<http://www.oecd.org/home/>

Explore development, governance, and world trade and investment issues on this OECD site. It provides links to many related topics and addresses global economic issues on a country-by-country basis.

Sun SITE Singapore

<http://sunsite.nus.edu.sg/noframe.html>

These South East Asia Information pages provide information and point to other online resources about the region's 10 countries, including Vietnam, Indonesia, and Brunei.

UNIT 5: Comparative Politics: Some Major Trends, Issues, and Prospects

Commission on Global Governance

<http://www.sovereignty.net/p/gov/gganalysis.htm>

This site provides access to *The Report of the Commission on Global Governance*, produced by an international group of leaders

who want to find ways in which the global community can better manage its affairs.

IISDnet

<http://www.iisd.org/default.asp>

This site of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, a Canadian organization, presents information through links on business and sustainable development, developing ideas, and Hot Topics. Linkages is its multimedia resource for environment and development policymakers.

ISN International Relations and Security Network

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch>

This site, maintained by the Center for Security Studies and Conflict Research, is a clearinghouse for extensive information on international relations and security policy. Topics are listed by category (Traditional Dimensions of Security, New Dimensions of Security) and by major world regions.

United Nations Environment Program

<http://www.unep.ch/>

Consult this home page of UNEP for links to critical topics about global issues, including desertification and the impact of trade on the environment. The site leads to useful databases and global resource information.

Virtual Seminar in Global Political Economy/Global Cities & Social Movements

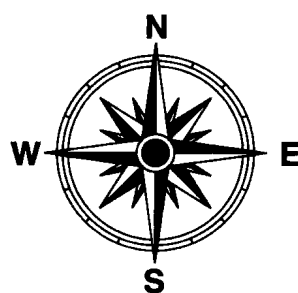
<http://csf.colorado.edu/gpe/gpe95b/resources.html>

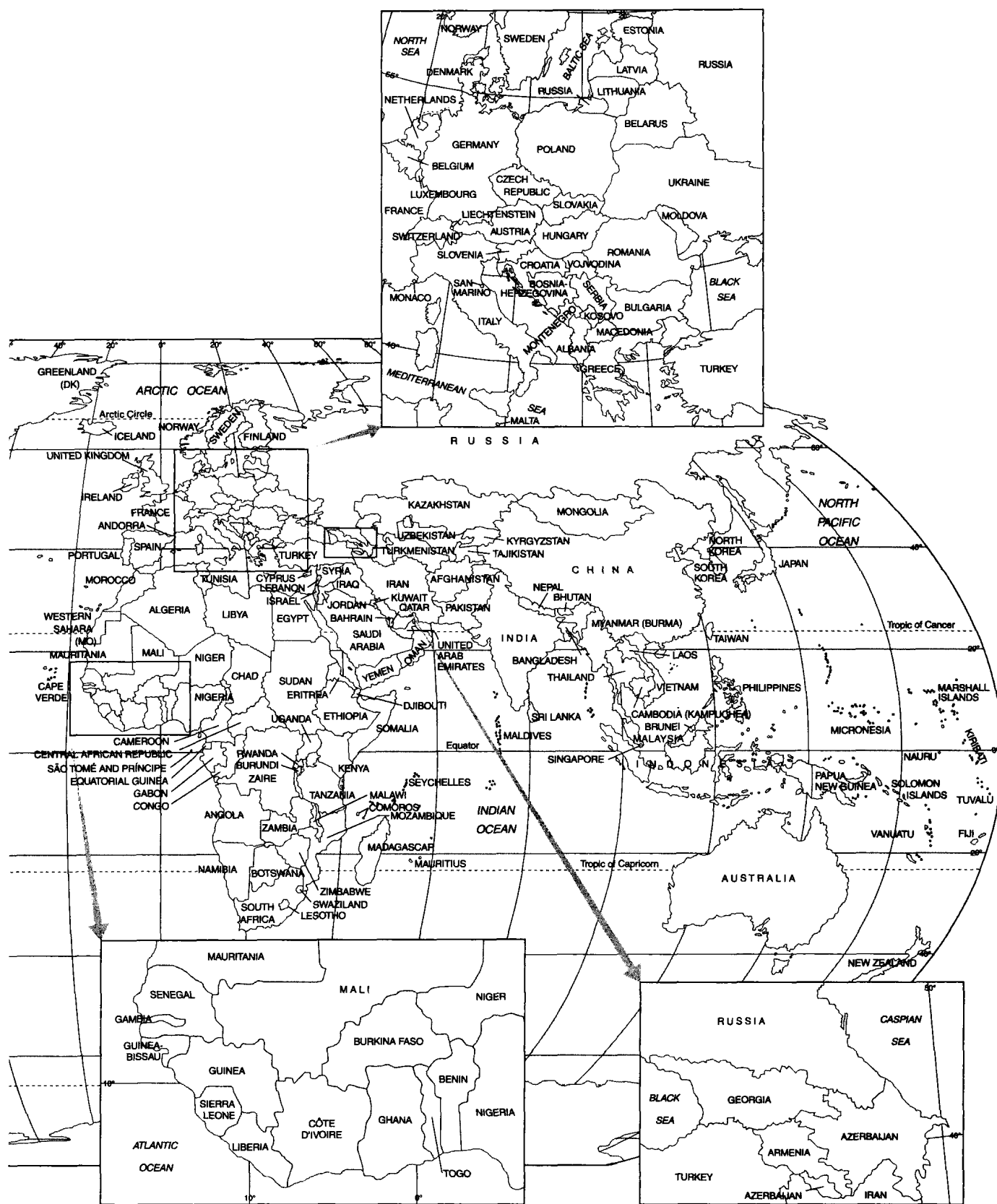
This site of Internet resources is rich in links to subjects of interest in regional studies, covering topics such as sustainable cities, megacities, and urban planning. Links to many international nongovernmental organizations are included.

We highly recommend that you review our Web site for expanded information and our other product lines. We are continually updating and adding links to our Web site in order to offer you the most usable and useful information that will support and expand the value of your Annual Editions. You can reach us at: <http://www.dushkin.com/annualeditions/>.

World Map

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UNIT 1

Pluralist Democracies: Country Studies

Unit Selections

1. **A Constitutional Revolution in Britain?**, Donley T. Studlar
2. **The Blair Moment**, Steven Philip Kramer
3. **Coming Out Smiling: Blair Survives His Biggest Test as Prime Minister and Promises No Wavering on Bold Policies**, James Blitz
4. **Tories, Even With a New Leader, See Little to Hope For**, Sara Lyall
5. **A Divided Self: A Survey of France**, John Andrews
6. **French Secularism Unwraps Far More than Headscarves in the Classroom**, Robert Graham
7. **Iraq Aside, French View the U.S. With a Mixture of Attraction and Repulsion**, Elaine Sciolino
8. **Gerhard Schröder Clings On**, The Economist
9. **Untangling the System**, The Economist
10. **Schröder's Unfinished Business: Why the Reforms Agreed for Germany's Ailing Economy Leave the Job Half-done**, Bertrand Benoit
11. **The Vices and Virtues of Old Germany's 'Model' Economy**, Michael Prowse
12. **Japanese Spirit, Western Things**, The Economist

Key Points to Consider

- What are the main items on Prime Minister Blair's constitutional reform agenda, and how far have they become reality by now?
- What were some major factors that helped Tony Blair and Labour win a second term in office in June 2001?
- What is "new" about Labour under Blair's leadership?
- How can his government's policy toward Iraq and public services create difficulties for Blair in his own party?
- What are the political prospects of the other two national parties, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, in the House of Commons?
- Why did Jacques Chirac call an early parliamentary election in 1997, and how did the outcome produce a new form of "cohabitation" in the Fifth Republic?
- What are the signs that French politics have become more centrist or middle-of-the-road for the main political parties?
- How did Lionel Jospin and his government of the Left approach socioeconomic reform in France?
- How did the formula, "first time vote with the heart, next time with the head," boomerang on left-of-center voters in the two-stage French presidential elections of 2004? Name three unusual factors that helped the SPD and the Greens in Germany find new supporters in the parliamentary elections of 2002.
- Why has the perennial debate about the need for a reform of the German social model produced so little real advance?
- How has the federal council (Bundesrat) landed on political reform agenda in Germany?
- Explain why Japan's LDP is jokingly said to be "neither liberal, nor democratic, nor a party." What has been the role of this party in postwar Japanese politics?
- How and why has a would-be reformer like Prime Minister Koizumi begun to resemble his predecessors?
- Why could a reform of the bureaucracy become a major political event in Japan?
- How does the 2003 election provide some hope for the consolidation of the parliamentary opposition in Japan.



Links: www.dushkin.com/online/

These sites are annotated in the World Wide Web pages.

France.com

<http://www.france.com>

Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<http://www.mofa.go.jp>

GermNews

<http://www.germnews.de/dn/about/>

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UNIT 1 Pluralist Democracies: Country Studies

Twelve selections examine the current state of politics in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Japan.

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Part A. The United Kingdom

- 1. A Constitutional Revolution in Britain?**, Donley T. Studlar, *McGraw-Hill/Dushkin*, 2003
 "New" Labour came to power in 1997 with an unprecedented commitment to sweeping **constitutional reform**. Here an American political scientist examines the Blair government's subsequent record in promoting a series of major institutional changes in Britain and goes on to consider their political consequences. His review reaches until the end of 2003 and includes recent developments with respect to the **House of Lords, devolution, Northern Ireland, the monarchy, and the European Union**. 16
- 2. The Blair Moment**, Steven Philip Kramer, *The Wilson Quarterly*, Autumn 2003
Tony Blair became prime minister with the declared mission of modernizing Britain and overcoming its political insularity. The author concludes that Blair's commitment to the **special relationship with the U.S.** and his **strong support of the Iraq War** have damaged his grand strategy and undermined public confidence in his leadership. 22
- 3. Coming Out Smiling: Blair Survives His Biggest Test as Prime Minister and Promises No Wavering on Bold Policies**, James Blitz, *Financial Times*, January 30, 2004
 In the last week of January 2004, Tony Blair survived two serious challenges to his leadership: A **rebellion in his own parliamentary party over university tuition fees** and an **official inquiry into how the government had presented its case for war in Iraq**. This article reviews these events and stresses that Blair's continued reform of the public service sector will require **improved relations with Labour backbenchers and support from Gordon Brown**, his potential successor. In an accompanying commentary and analysis, Brian Groom argues that Blair's vindication presents him with a second chance to **join the leaders of France and Germany in giving new energy and direction to the European Union**. 28
- 4. Tories, Even With a New Leader, See Little to Hope For**, Sara Lyall, *The New York Times*, December 22, 2003
 The **Conservatives** were the dominant force in British politics for most of the past century, but they are unlikely to return to office soon. They recently switched **party leader** for the third time since 1997, and **Michael Howard** now faces the challenge of moving his party toward the center of resolving its internal divisions. 31

Part B. France

- 5. A Divided Self: A Survey of France**, John Andrews, *The Economist*, November 16, 2002
 The sweeping victory of the Conservatives in **the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2002** seems to have made the right-of-center bloc, led by **President Chirac**, dominant in French politics for the next few years. There is no guarantee that there will be effective reforms to deal with the **series of social and political problems** discussed in this article, ranging from the failure to integrate the many immigrants to the social and economic problems confronting its welfare state. 33

6. **French Secularism Unwraps Far More than Headscarves in the Classroom**, Robert Graham, *Financial Times*, November 20, 2003

Citing the French tradition of **secularity** and ignoring strong criticism from the leaders of several million Muslims in France, President Chirac has called for legislation to bar the Islamic headscarf and other **conspicuous religious signs** from state schools. It seems doubtful that the 10-year old controversy will be put to rest so easily, for there is much more at issue as this article shows.

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7. **Iraq Aside, French View the U.S. With a Mixture of Attraction and Repulsion**, Elaine Sciolino, *The New York Times*, November 13, 2003

The current French-American rift is born of disagreement over Iraq but rooted in long-standing differences, writes the author. On closer look, she adds, the relationship is more complex. **French attitudes toward the United States** show a mixture of repulsion and disenchantment while mixed with attraction, curiosity, and outright envy.

45

Part C. Germany

8. **Gerhard Schröder Clings On**, *The Economist*, September 28, 2002

The article explains how the red-green government managed to be **narrowly re-elected**, examines the new **parliamentary balance of power**, and points to a series of **structural problems** that demand **bold political leadership**. Are Chancellor Schröder and his team ready for the task ahead?

47

9. **Untangling the System**, *The Economist*, November 8, 2003

German reformers want to modernize their country's **federal structure**, which is increasingly seen as a major **obstacle to effective governance**. This article reviews the problems along with some proposed remedies. There are vested interests that will make any reform difficult.

50

10. **Schröder's Unfinished Business: Why the Reforms Agreed for Germany's Ailing Economy Leave the Job Half-done**, Bertrand Benoit, *Financial Times*, January 7, 2004

The author argues that the recently enacted **major reform legislation**, sponsored by the Schröder-Fischer government as Agenda 2010, has slaughtered some sacred cows. Yet he concludes that the sacrifices may not be nearly enough to open the door to a revival of Germany's **sluggish social and economic system**.

52

11. **The Vices and Virtues of Old Germany's 'Model' Economy**, Michael Prowse, *Financial Times*, November 8, 2003

In a role reversal, Germany has come to replace Britain in comments about "**the sick man of Europe**." This British author concedes that the German economy, long regarded as a model in **balancing equity and efficiency**, has some **structural problems**. But he points to some impressive achievements in public investments and the rebuilding of eastern Germany.

55

Part D. Japan

12. **Japanese Spirit, Western Things**, *The Economist*, July 10, 2003

150 years after Commodore Perry's order to open the country to trade, Japan has emerged as one of the world's great economic success stories. This survey examines the origins of that success and emphasizes that Japan has shown that modernization does not require embracing Western culture.

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UNIT 2

Pluralist Democracies: Factors in the Political Process

Ten selections examine the functioning of Western European democracies with regard to political ideas and participation, money and politics, the role of women in politics, and the institutional framework of representative government.

Unit Overview

60

Part A. Patterns of Democratic Atrophy? Comparative Perspectives

13. **Public Opinion: Is There a Crisis?**, *The Economist*, July 17, 1999

Advanced democracies differ considerably from each other, but in recent years they have shared a common pattern of **public disillusionment with institutions and politicians**. The first in a series of three briefs dealing with this development examines the general decline in public trust and voter turnout in well-established democracies.

64

14. **Political Parties: Empty Vessels?**, *The Economist*, July 24, 1999
This brief from *The Economist* series examines the ***partial weakening of political parties*** in modern democracies. 67
15. **Interest Groups: Ex Uno, Plures**, *The Economist*, August 21, 1999
This brief in *The Economist* series reports on the growth of ***speical-interest lobbying*** in modern democracies. 70
16. **Advanced Democracies and the New Politics**, Russell J. Dalton, Susan E. Scarrow, and Bruce E. Cain, *Journal of Democracy*, January 2004
In the advanced democracies, there has been a decline of confidence in representative government accompanied by a shift towards a mixed repertoire of political expression that includes a greater role for both "direct democracy" and forms of "advocacy democracy." This creates new problems that will require new solutions. 73

Part B. Women in Politics

17. **Women in National Parliaments**, *Inter-Parliamentary Union*, February 29, 2004
This table has been compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the basis of information regularly provided by national parliaments. It classifies 181 countries in decending order by the ***percentage of women in the lower or single legislative chamber***. Perhaps the biggest surprise is to find Rwanda having moved from its previous rank of twenty to the top of the list as the results of elections held in 2003, in the aftermath of a horrific civil war. Otherwise it is the "usual suspects" among the older and smaller democracies that occupy the higher end of the list—the five Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands. Germany keeps placing well, and a growing number of others have attained what is sometimes called the ***"critical mass"*** of 30 percent. After the 2002 elections, the United States continues to lag. 81
18. **Europe Crawls Ahead ...**, Megan Rowling, *In These Times*, July 22, 2002
Women have moved to ***high elective office*** earlier and at ***higher rates*** in some countries than in others. This article examines ***what factors have made a difference***. France's new parity law was widely flouted in 2002, but in the German elections of the same year, self-imposed quotas by several parties played a key role. 87

Part C. The Institutional Framework

19. **What Democracy Is ... and Is Not**, Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, *Journal of Democracy*, Summer 1991
The two authors point out that ***modern representative democracies*** vary in their institutions, practices, and values, depending on their socioeconomic, historical, and cultural settings. 90
20. **Judicial Review: The Gavel and the Robe**, *The Economist*, August 7, 1999
Democracies have handed increasing amounts of power to unelected judges. This article examines ***the growth and many different forms of judicial review***. 97
21. **Referendums: The People's Voice**, *The Economist*, August 14, 1999
The referendum, a form of direct democracy, takes many forms. This article examines the ***different kinds of referenda***, looks at the experience so far, and reexamines the arguments about ***letting voters decide policy questions*** directly. 100

Part D. American Politics in Comparative Perspective

22. **The Case for a Multi-Party U.S. Parliament? American Politics in Comparative Perspective**, Christopher S. Allen, *McGraw-Hill/Dushkin*, 2004
The author supports the inclusion of American political institutions in the study of comparative politics. He presents a brief on behalf of a multi-party parliamentary system for the United States that can be read as a mental experiment in institutional transplantation. It underscores the basic insight that institutions are not neutral but have consequences for the political process itself. 103



UNIT 3

Europe in Transition: West, Center, and East

Seven selections examine the European continent: the European Union, Western European society, post-communist Central and Eastern Europe, and Russia and the other post-Soviet Republics.

Unit Overview

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Part A. The European Union

23. **When East Meets West**, Robert Cottrell, *The Economist*, November 22, 2003

The **enlargement of the European Union**, from fifteen to twenty-five members in 2004, will inevitably create some turmoil along with opportunities for newcomers and EU veterans. Almost certainly, the expanded and more diverse membership will result in a **looser-knit Union**.

118

24. **The European Union Cannot Reach Deal on Constitution**, John Taglia-bue, *The New York Times*, December 14, 2003

The European leaders met in December 2003 to work out **the final details of a EU draft constitution**, but the talks failed. This article examines the reasons for collapse of the talks and looks at possible future developments.

121

Part B. The Politics of Migration

25. **In Search of Europe's Borders: The Politics of Migration in the European Union**, Seyla Benhabib, *Dissent*, Fall 2002

West European societies are now experiencing changes in the makeup of their population as a result of **immigration**. The author provides a well informed and much needed perspective on the newcomers and on the varied **political reactions** in the **host countries**.

123

Part C. Central and Eastern Europe

26. **Letter From Poland**, David Ost, *The Nation*, November 25, 2002

The author reports from Poland on a **decline of the neo-liberal model** and some other recent developments of importance. They include the **growth of an extreme Right**, the **emergence of a democratic Left**, and changes in attitudes towards the Unions and globalization.

128

Part D. Russia

27. **Ten Myths About Russia: Understanding and Dealing With Russia's Complexity and Ambiguity**, David Foglesong and Gordon M. Hahn, *Problems of Post-Communism*, November/December 2002

The authors examine ten widely held illusions about **Russia** that have clouded our understanding of that country and promoted unrealistic expectations about its rapid transformation. They offer a more **realistic alternative view**.

131

28. **Russian Democracy Under Putin**, Timothy J. Colton and Michael Mc-Faul, *Problems of Post-Communism*, July/August 2003

Writing a few months before the parliamentary elections, two specialists on Russia examine that country's political system and conclude that it is quasi-democratic, quasi-autocratic order.

143

29. **Putin's Way**, *The Economist*, December 13, 2003

This report on Russia's parliamentary elections in December 2003 concludes that the voters in effect opted for an authoritarian concentration of power in the president.

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The concepts in bold italics are developed in the article. For further expansion, please refer to the Topic Guide and the Index.