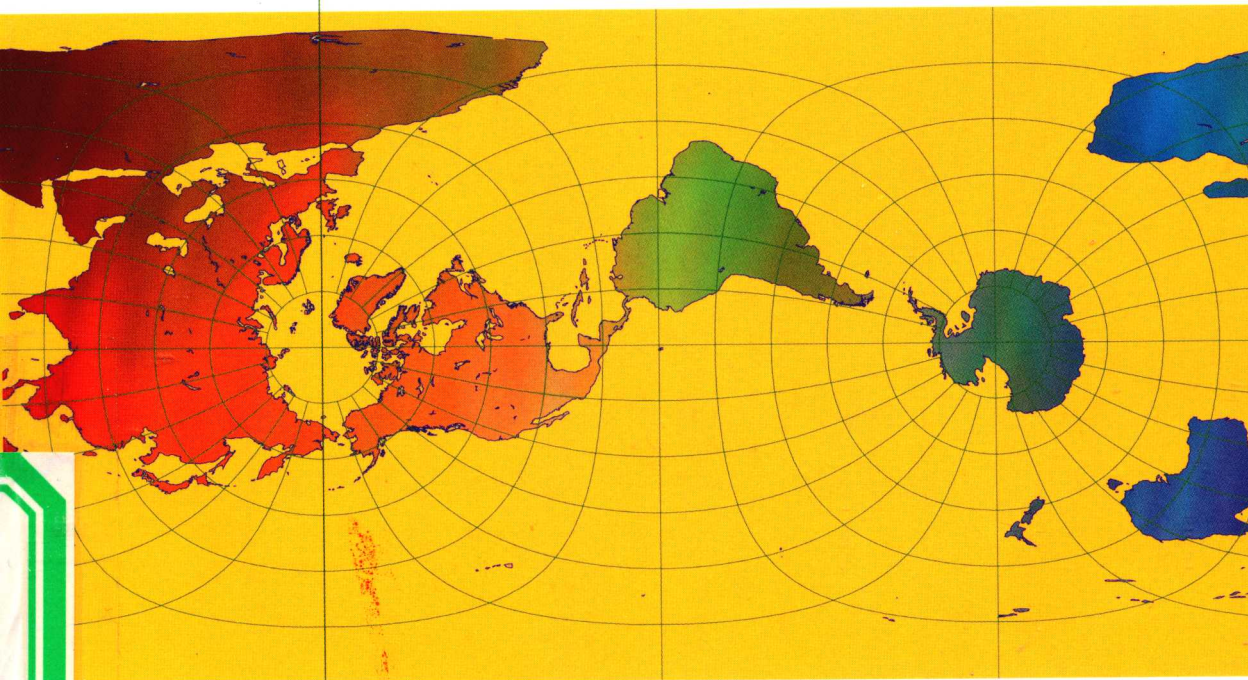


# ESSENTIALS OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS



THIRD  
EDITION

PATRICK H. O'NEIL

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THIRD EDITION

PATRICK H. O'NEIL

*University of Puget Sound*



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patrick H. O'Neil is professor of politics and government at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. Professor O'Neil's teaching and research interests are in the areas of democratization, conflict and political violence. His publications include the books *Revolution from Within: The Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party "Reform Circles" and the Collapse of Communism* and *Communicating Democracy: The Media and Political Transitions* (editor). His current research focuses on Iran. He is coeditor with Ron Rogowski of *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Third Edition, and coauthor with Karl Fields and Don Share of *Cases in Comparative Politics*, Third Edition, both published by W. W. Norton & Company.

## PREFACE

The past twenty years has seen the dramatic transformation of comparative politics: the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the spread of democracy around the world, the rise of new economic powers in Asia, and the deepening of globalization. For a time, many looked upon these changes as unmitigated progress that would bring about a decline in global conflict and produce widespread prosperity. Recently, however, there has been growing doubt, as the uncertainties of the future seem to portend more risk than reward, more conflict than peace. It is increasingly difficult to sustain the notion that a nation can function without a good understanding of the billions of people who live outside of its borders. We ignore the world at our peril.

This textbook is meant to contribute to our understanding of comparative politics (the study of domestic politics around the world) by investigating the central ideas and questions that make up this field. It begins with the most basic struggle in politics—the battle between freedom and equality and the task of reconciling or balancing these ideals. How this struggle has unfolded across place and time represents the core of comparative politics. The text continues by emphasizing the importance of institutions. Human action is fundamentally guided by the institutions that people construct, such as culture, constitutions, and property rights. Once established, these institutions are both influential and persistent—not easily overcome, changed, or removed. How these institutions emerge, and how they affect politics, is central to this work.

With these ideas in place, we tackle the basic institutions of power—states, markets, societies, democracies, and nondemocratic regimes. What are states, how do they emerge, and how can we measure their capacity, autonomy, and efficacy? How do markets function, and what kinds of relationships exist between states and markets? How do societal components like nationalism, ethnicity, and ideology shape political values? And what are the main differences between democratic and nondemocratic regimes, and what explains why one or the other predominates in various parts of the world? These are a few of the questions we will attempt to answer.

Once these concepts and questions have been explored, subsequent chapters will apply them directly to various political systems—advanced democracies, communist and post-communist countries, and newly industrializing and less-developed countries. In each of these, the basic institutions of the state, market, society, democratic or nondemocratic regimes all shape the relationship between freedom and equality. What basic characteristics lead us to group these countries together? How do they compare to one another, and what are their prospects for economic, social, and democratic development? Finally, we will conclude with discussions of political violence—looking at terrorism and revolution in particular—and globalization, linking what we have studied to two of the most central areas of concern today.

There are several changes to the Third Edition of this book. One major change has been in the order of the chapters on democratic and nondemocratic regimes, moving the former before the latter. The rationale for this change was to use the democratic regimes chapter as a template to show the origins and structures of these systems, which will then allow for a more focused comparison with nondemocratic regimes. This allows for the two chapters to be more explicitly comparative, rather than viewing nondemocratic systems as a “residual category” of idiosyncratic institutions. In addition, the chapter on globalization has been moved to the end of the text, immediately following the discussion of political violence. This allows for the discussion of globalization to benefit from the earlier investigation of political violence and also lets us look at how the two might be related. In addition, the globalization chapter considers to a greater extent the ways in which comparative politics as a field of study might be affected by the blurring between domestic and international politics. Finally, throughout the book, supporting examples and evidence have been updated, and recent influential work in comparative politics is noted and discussed.

The format of this text is rather different from that of most textbooks in this field. Traditionally, books have been built around a set of country studies, with introductory chapters for the advanced, post-communist, and less-developed world. While such a textbook can provide a great deal of information on a wide range of cases, the trade-off is often a less thorough consideration of the basic grammar of comparative politics. We might know who the prime minister of Japan is but have less of an understanding of political culture, mercantilism, or state autonomy, all ideas that can help us make sense of politics across time and place. This text strives to fill this gap and can be used alongside traditional case studies to help draw out broader questions and issues. By grasping these concepts, arguments, and questions, students will better understand the political dynamics of the wider world.

This thematic approach to the essential tools and ideas of comparative politics is supported by a strong pedagogy that clarifies and reinforces the

most important concepts. Key concepts lists and “In Focus” boxes in every chapter highlight important material that students will want to review. Numerous figures and tables illustrate important concepts and provide real world data related to the topic at hand. Timelines and thematic maps show important political developments over time and around the globe. The importance of institutions is emphasized by “Institutions in Action” boxes.

*Essentials of Comparative Politics* is designed to offer instructors flexibility in creating the course that they want to teach. In addition to the core textbook, a corresponding casebook and a reader are also available. *Cases in Comparative Politics*, coauthored by Karl Fields, Donald Share, and myself, applies the concepts from *Essentials of Comparative Politics* to thirteen country studies. In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, my coeditor Ronald Rogowski and I have selected key readings to accompany each chapter in the textbook. Norton also offers the textbook and casebook in e-book format. Support materials for instructors, including a Test Bank and PowerPoint lecture outlines, are also available.

Many people have contributed to this work. The text itself is inspired by Karen Mingst’s *Essentials of International Relations*. When Norton released Mingst’s book in 1999, I was struck by its concision and came to the conclusion that comparative politics would benefit from a similar kind of text. At Norton, Peter Lesser first encouraged me to submit a proposal for this textbook, and Roby Harrington encouraged me to develop the initial chapters, supported its publication, and provided important feedback at many stages. As editor, Ann Shin held me to a high standard of writing argumentation in the First Edition. For the Second Edition, Peter Lesser took over editorial duties, helping to further improve the work. In this Third Edition, Aaron Javasicas guided me through a number of complicated revisions. I am grateful to all three of them for their investment in this work. Thanks, too, to Elizabeth Kaster for her research assistance.

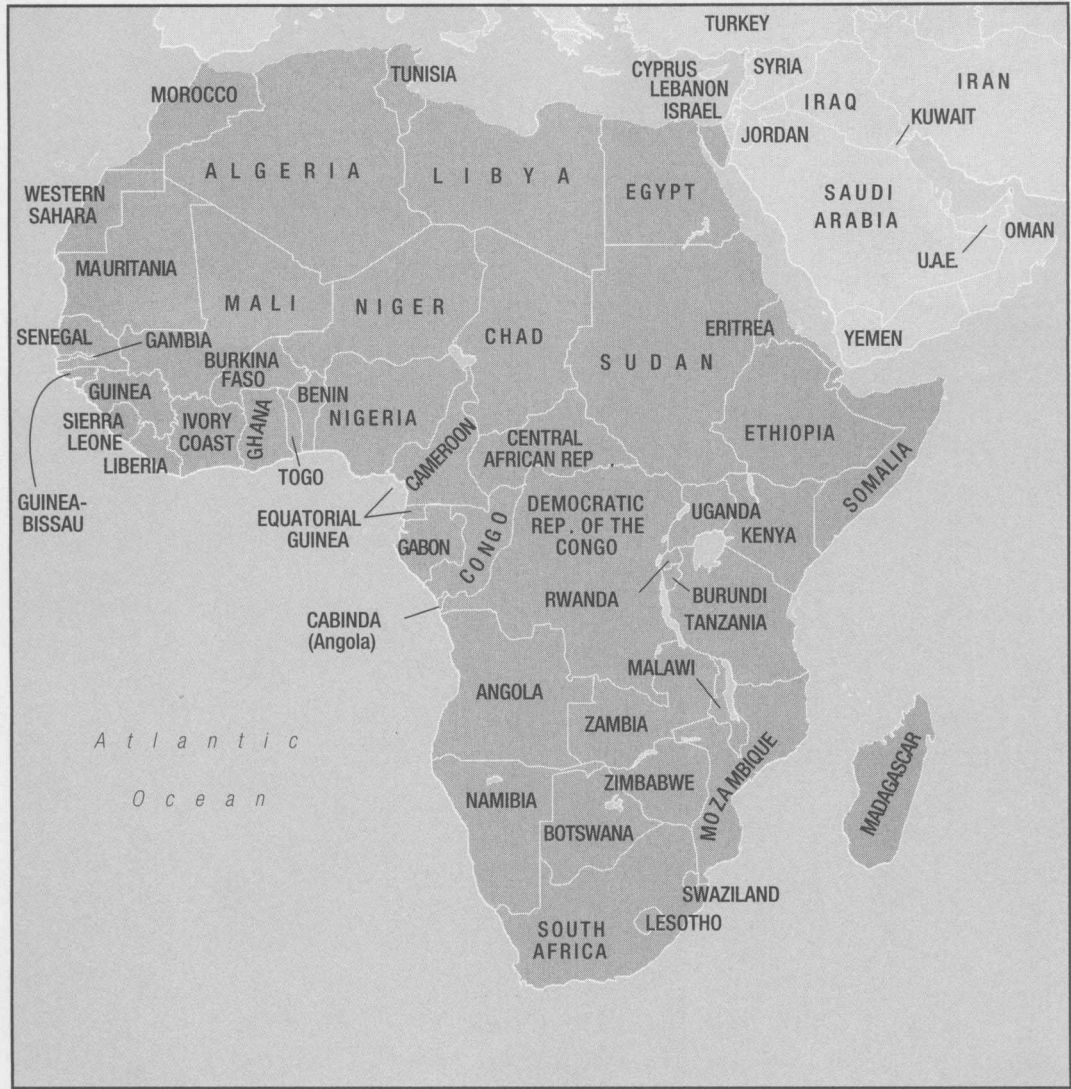
In addition to the people at Norton, many academics have helped improve this work. Most important have been my colleagues at the University of Puget Sound, in particular Don Share and Karl Fields. Over the past few years Don, Karl, and I have team-taught introductory comparative politics, and it was my work with these two outstanding teachers and scholars that helped generate many of the ideas in this book. Don and Karl were also kind enough to use draft chapters of this text in their courses and provided a great deal of feedback and numerous suggestions. I am fortunate to have such colleagues. Another important source of input has come from those reviewers who provided input in advance of the Third Edition: Emily Acevedo (California State University, Los Angeles), James Allan (Wittenberg University), Josephine Andrews (University of California, Davis), Alex Avila (Mesa Community College), William Heller (Binghamton University), Robert Jackson (University of

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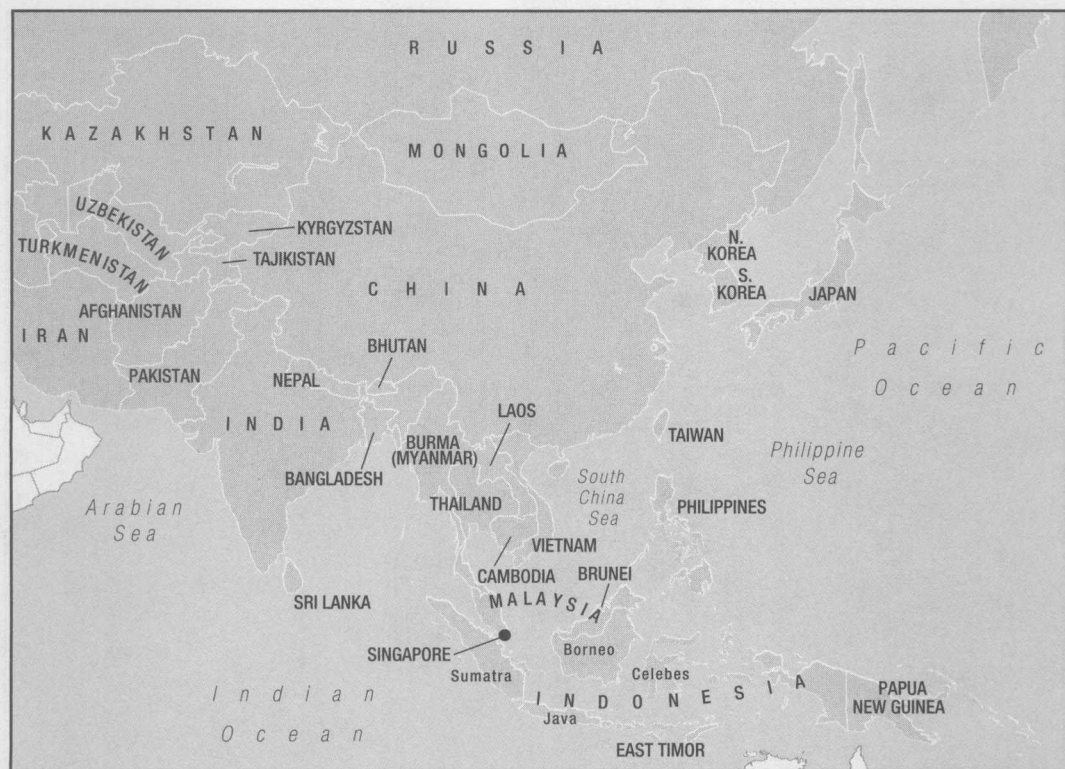
Finally, I would like to thank the students of the University of Puget Sound for their questions and insights, the administration of the university for its support of this project, and my family for their patience.

Patrick H. O'Neil  
Tacoma, Washington  
June 2009

Africa



# Asia



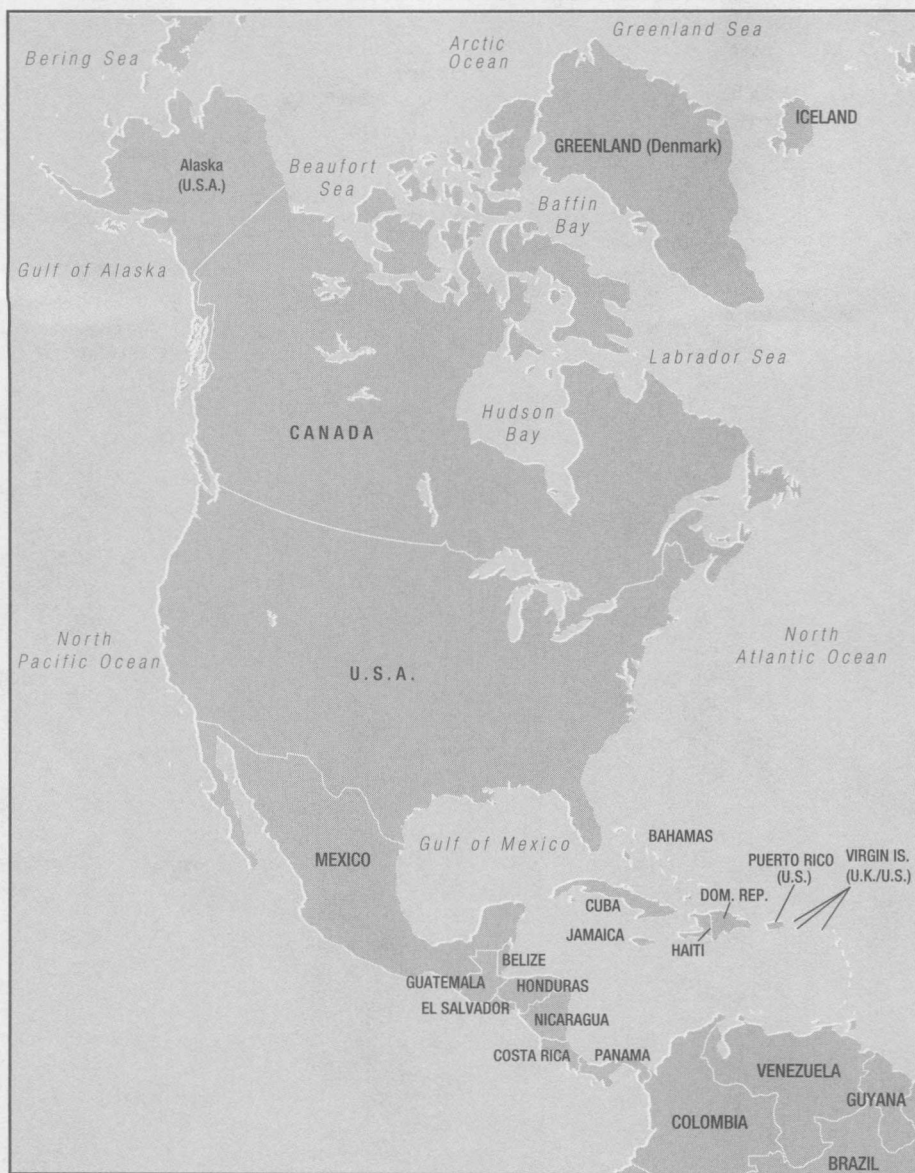
Europe

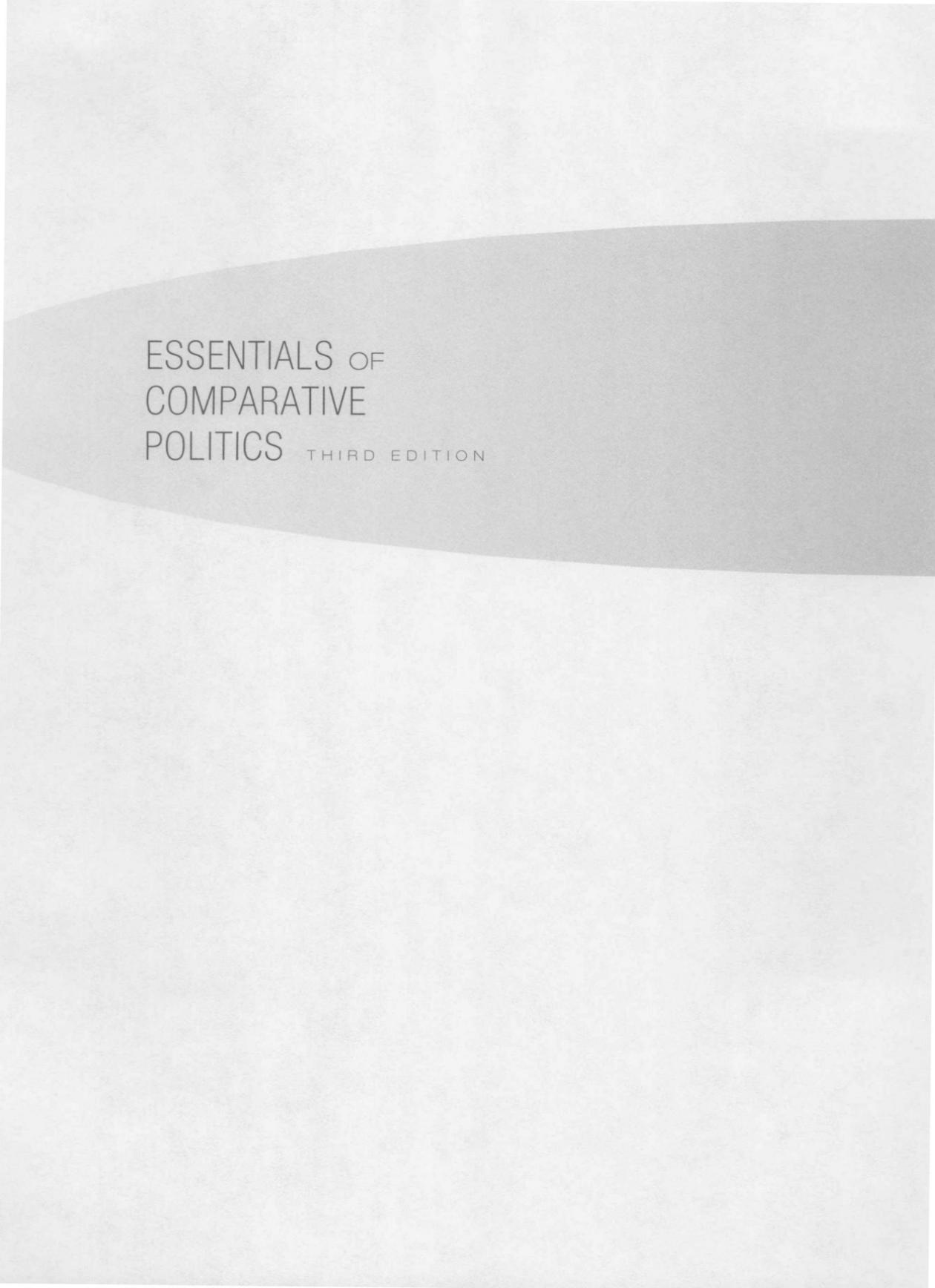


# Central and South America



## North America





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