



Comparative Politics

Political Economy, Political Culture, and Political Interdependence

Second Edition

Monte Palmer

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Monte Palmer

American University of Beirut



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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 equity, and environmental degradation.

The second edition of *Comparative Politics* also reflects changes that have occurred in the world community since the publication of the first edition. Major shifts to the left have occurred in Britain, France, and Germany. Economic liberalization has gained momentum in the Third World, albeit with inconsistent results. Democracy has made gains in countries such as Nigeria and Mexico, but has lost ground in others. Changes in the second edition also reflect thoughtful assessments of the first edition, leading to simplification of the theoretical materials and replacement of the chapter on Brazil with a chapter on Mexico.

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Part One

An Introduction to Comparative Politics

