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Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AP Comparative Government and Politics**

**Key Terms and Concepts**

DIRECTIONS: Provide definitions for all of the following terms. Be mindful that not all definitions will be found in your text book. Use your notes and class discussion to fill in the gaps. You may also use the internet. This is due **September 13, 2016.** Only hand-written copies will be accepted.

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| **Key Terms & Concepts** | **Definitions** |
| 1. Civil Society | society created when citizens are allowed to organize and express their views publicly as they engage in an open debate about public policy. |
| 1. Advanced Democracies | a term that applies to countries that have a long history of democracy that has stabilized as the established form of government, high degree of legitimacy and social capital |
| 1. Communism | a system of social organization based on the common ownership and coordination of production; a theory of government developed by Karl Marx in the 19th century in which the communist party controls everything from the government to the economy to social life; generally values equality over freedom |
| 1. Lesser Developed Countries | Characterized by poverty, poor or non-existent healthcare and education, low literacy levels and life expectancy |
| 1. Developing Countries | nation-states which are industrializing |
| 1. Sovereignty | independent legal authority over a population in a particular place; the degree to which a state controls its own territory and independently make and carry out policy |
| 1. State | the assembly of all those people and groups within a nation-state that have power to effect change at some level of society through direct action or political participation |
| 1. Nation | a group of people who identify themselves as belonging together because of cultural, geographic, or linguistic ties |
| 1. Regime | a pattern of organization for a government often described in a constitution or supreme law |
| 1. Country | distinct, politically defined territories that encompass goes, composed of political institutions, as well as cultures, economies & collective identities |
| 1. Political Institutions | institution that determines how power is obtained and exercised |
| 1. Linkage Institutions | The channels through which people's concerns become political issues on the government's policy agenda. In the United States, linkage institutions include elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media. |
| 1. Nationalism | Pride in one’s country; national pride in a country. Devotion to the interest of one’s country |
| 1. Direct Democracy | citizens may be able to share directly in debating, deciding, and implementing public policy; usually found in small political systems; a form of democracy where individuals have immediate say over many decisions that the government makes |
| 1. Indirect Democracy | Used by most countries; people vote eon representatives who vote on the issues. In the UK votes for parliament members who represent their ideals in the legislation |
| 1. Parliamentary System | Two interdependent branches in which only the legislature is elected, and the executive rises from the legislature. The head of the executive branch is the prime minister and his/her cabinet. Usually, neither branch has a fixed term, but a member of the cabinet can be voted out at any time (vote of confidence); a form of democracy where citizens vote for legislative representatives, who in turn select the leaders of the executive branch |
| 1. Presidential System | a form of democracy where citizens vote for legislative representatives as well as for executive branch leaders; the two branches function with a separation of power |
| 1. Semi-Presidential System | A system of government where the president and the legislative body share power on |
| 1. Head of Government | the office and the person occupying the office charged with leading the operation of a government |
| 1. Head of State | the chief public representative of a state |
| 1. Separation of Powers | the system of governance in which government power is divided into several bodies with the ability to check the power of the other bodies |
| 1. Checks and Balances | a system of governance in which divisions of government can restrain the political authority of other divisions |
| 1. Political elites | those that hold political power in a regime |
| 1. Corporatism | The control of a state or organization by large interest groups. |
| 1. Patron-Client Systems | a usually informal alliance between a person holding power and less powerful or lower status people; the powerful patron provides power, status, jobs, land, goods, and/or protection in exchange for loyalty and political support |
| 1. Coup d’état | the forceful replacement of a regime or a government by a small elite group or groups |
| 1. Co-optation | to win support by granting special favors to an individual or a group; there is often an implication that those receiving benefits abandon important goals when offered less-important benefits |
| 1. Military Rule | generally, any government that is administrated by military forces, whether this government is legal or not under the laws of the jurisdiction at issue, and whether this government is formed by natives or by an occupying power. |
| 1. Pluralism | A theory of government that holds that open, multiple, and competing groups can check the asserted power by any one group. |
| 1. Democratic Corporatism | interest articulation is institutionalized through recognition by the state, new groups can only form if the state allows it; organizations develop institutionalized and legally binding links with state agencies, acting on behalf of the state, groups and individuals lose their freedoms |
| 1. Legitimacy | the belief that a regime is a proper one and that the government has a right to exercise authority |
| 1. Common Law | a system of law where court cases decided by the highest court serve as precedent of future decisions and have the force of law. |
| 1. Code Law | a system of law where the rules are written in the form of statutes (legislation) |
| 1. Political Culture | public attitudes toward politics and their role within the political system; refers to the collection of political beliefs, values, practices, and institutions that the government is based on |
| 1. Social capital | reciprocity and trust that exists among citizens and between citizens and the state |
| 1. Liberalism | a political ideology that places emphasis on individual political and economic freedom; a type of change that supports reform and gradual change rather than revolution; emphasis on individual freedoms over collective equality and on power of markets over state |
| 1. Socialism | a political/economic system in which the government plays a major role (usually ownership) in determining the use of productive resources and the allocation of valuable goods and services; may be democratic or authoritarian |
| 1. Fascism | a political ideology that rejects individual freedom and equality and accepts the idea that people and groups exist in degrees of inferiority and superiority; like communism, is hostile to the idea of individual freedom but rejects the notion of equality |
| 1. Reform | a type of change that does not advocate the overthrow of basic institutions; reformers want to change some methods that political and economic leaders use to reach goals that the society generally accepts |
| 1. Revolution | a type of change that implies a change at a more basic level and does not involve either a major revision or an overthrow of existing institutions |
| 1. Fragmentation | divisions based on ethnic or cultural identity |
| 1. Substantive   Democracies | Countries that guarantee many more political rights and civil liberties than simply the requisite free and fair competitive elections |
| 1. Procedural Democracies | Countries that meet the minimum requirements of democracy, with free and fair elections for the real policymakers and eligibility of all adults. |
| 1. Rule of Law | provides equal treatment of citizens and due process |
| 1. Civil Liberties | freedom of belief, speech, and assembly |
| 1. Market Economy | an economy that allocates resources through the decentralized decisions of many firms and households as the interact in markets for goods and services |
| 1. Command Economy | an economic/political system in which government decisions rather than markets determine resource use and output |
| 1. Social Cleavages | Division along class, regional, religious, or ethnic lines. |
| 1. Political Efficacy | the ability to influence political outcomes |
| 1. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) | private group that pursues self-defined goals outside of government; common activities are publicizing issues, lobbying, making demands on government, and providing direct services |
| 1. Unitary System | A government that gives all key powers to the national or central government |
| 1. Federal System | A system of government where the power is not only at a national level, but also at local ones too |
| 1. Confederal System | spreads the power among many sub-units (such as states) and has a weak central government (ex. United States under the Articles of Confederation) |
| 1. Supranational Organizations | transcending established national boundaries or spheres of interest |
| 1. Globalization | the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of people, cultures, economies, and nation-states facilitated by technology, trade, and cultural diffusion |
| 1. Bureaucracy | a hierarchically structured organization charged with carrying out the policies determined by those with political authority |
| 1. Bicameral | A type of legislature divided into two parts. |
| 1. Unicameral | describing a legislative body consisting of one house |
| 1. Judicial Review | the power of courts to modify or nullify the actions of legislatures and executives |
| 1. Single-Member Districts | an electoral system in which voters choose an individual running for office in each legislative district (also called "first past the post" if the winner is chosen by a plurality) |
| 1. Proportional Representation | electorate votes for party slates; seats are allocated based on the per cent of the vote each party gets |
| 1. Referendum | A state-level method of direct legislation that gives voters a chance to approve or disapprove proposed legislation or a proposed constitutional amendment. |
| 1. Interest Groups | any organization that seeks to influence government policy making to better serve the self-perceived wants and needs of its members |
| 1. Political Parties | Different groups of individuals with broad common interests who organize to nominate candidates for office, win elections, conduct government, and determine public policy |
| 1. Social Welfare | the material condition of the members of a group; may also refer to the group-supplied material benefits in a society (e.g. health care) |
| 1. Austerity | series of sustained reductions in public spending aimed at reducing welfare state and reducing deficits |
| 1. Authoritarian | a system of governance based on coercion rather than political legitimacy |
| 1. Coinciding Cleavages | a division that strengthens feelings of difference and discrepancy, weakening society |
| 1. Crosscutting Cleavages | occur when the various factors that make up an individual's social identity tend to pull that person in different political directions; same groups of people find themselves on an opposite side of a different issue; if groups share a common interest on one issue are likely to be on opposite sides of a different issue |
| 1. Gross Domestic Product | the total value of goods and services produced by an economy |
| 1. Multiparty System | ensures that no single party wins a legislative majority by having combinations of parties and election laws |
| 1. Two-Party System | Systems dominated by mainly two parties and that have election laws that give legislative control to one of the two parties |
| 1. One Party System | A political system in which only one party exists. |
| 1. One Party Dominant System | A party system in which a single party rules for long periods of time and the opposition parties are not likely to gain the support needed to successfully challenge the dominant party for control of the government |
| 1. Transparency | the full, accurate, and timely disclosure of information |