

PS 120 Discussion Section 5:
Electoral Systems, Germany, South Africa
TA: Juan Qian

I. Key Terms

<p>Electoral System: Duverger's Law Single-Member Plurality System (SMPS) Proportional Representation Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMP) Closed Party List Open List Overhang/Underhang Mandate Free List Gerrymandering Social Cleavages</p> <p>Germany: Angela Merkel Alternative for Germany (AfD) Bundestag Bundestrat Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Chancellor of Germany Federal President Free Democratic Party Länder Landstag Social Democratic Party (SDP)</p>	<p>South Africa: Apartheid African National Congress (ANC) Afrikaners Bantus Cyril Ramaphosa Democratic Alliance (DA) Electoral Threshold Executive President (SA) National Assembly National Council of Provinces Nelson Mandela Racial Category during Apartheid Era (Black/White/Coloureds/Indians) Willem de Klerk</p>
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II. Comparison of Electoral Systems:

System	Ideal Type: Single-Member Plurality	Ideal Type: List-PR	Germany: MMP
How are legislators elected?			
How do parties nominate and rank their candidates?		Open List: Closed List: Free List:	
Does the proportion of votes translate to allocation of seats? <i>(Is gerrymandering possible?)</i>			(If not, how does Germany deal with it?)
Advantages:			
Disadvantages:			

III. Lijphart's Table for Germany and South Africa

Feature	Germany	South Africa
Party System: One-party Dominance vs. Multi-party Coalition?		
Executive Power: Executive Head of State vs. Cabinet/Prime Minister Dominance?		
Legislative Power: Bicameral Legislature vs. Dominance of One Legislative Chamber?		
Electoral System: Majoritarian vs. Proportional Representation		
Territorial Units: Unitary State vs. Federalism		
Constitution: Flexibility vs. Rigidity		
Judicial System: Existence of Judicial Review?		