

POL 130
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

SYLLABUS

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Office: Chambers 2031
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Spring 2004
Tuesday-Thursday 10:00-11:15
Chambers 1046

“Without comparisons to make, the mind does not know how to proceed.”
Alexis de Tocqueville, 1830

“A man who has tasted only his mother’s soup has no basis to claim that hers is the best.”
African proverb

*“And what should they know of England
Who only England know?”*
Rudyard Kipling

Goals of the Course

Welcome to Introduction to Comparative Politics. In this course we will:

- survey contemporary politics and political trends in selected countries and regions around the world;
- compare and contrast the variety of ways that different countries have chosen to shape their political institutions and processes, and assess the costs and benefits of these choices;
- analyze the variety of public policies different countries have adopted to address common problems, including the challenges of globalization, with an eye toward identifying processes, practices, and policies which might be “exportable” ideas for countries to borrow from one another;
- gain exposure to some of the most important perspectives and theories which inform our understanding of comparative politics;
- develop a basic understanding of the methods which political scientists use to understand politics. You will learn the use of the comparative approach, and its limits, as one of our most important methods for deriving generalizations about politics and lessons about public policy. And you will be introduced to basic critical analytic skills, to enable you to critically assess comparative data.

Evaluation:

Quizzes and participation:	10%
review #1:	20%
review #2:	25%

final exam: 25%
research paper: 20%

Final grades translate from number grade to letter grade in the following manner:

93-100 -- A
90-92 -- A-
87-89 -- B+
83-86 -- B etc.

Five announced quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. The top four scores will be considered your aggregate quiz score. Missed quizzes cannot be made up later, unless you miss more than one, in which case special arrangements will have to be made. Your average quiz score will be considered in combination with my assessment of your class participation in calculating 10% of your grade.

Reviews are normally a combination of short answer and essay questions. The reviews will attempt to reward students who are able to synthesize material and critically assess it. You will receive study guides prior to each review. Portions of the review may include take-home questions.

You will be asked to produce one written paper. Details on this assignment are provided in the appendix to the syllabus. Please note that late papers will not be accepted (barring serious illness or family crisis) and will receive a letter grade of F; be sure to get your paper done well in advance of the deadline and protect your drafts from computer malfunctions.

You are also required to keep abreast of current political news from around the world. The *New York Times* will be our primary, required source of news, but you will also be asked to monitor news and analysis from selected non-American newspapers on the web.

Please be familiar with honor code rules; they will be strictly enforced in class. It is expected that you understand what plagiarism is and know to avoid it. If you are unsure about proper use of secondary material, quotations, paraphrasing, footnoting, and other practices, do the safe thing and ask me for guidance before you turn the paper in. Be sure to review the citation guidelines in the appendix.

Required Reading:

The following books are required reading and available for sale in the bookstore:
McCormick, John. *Comparative Politics in Transition*. 4th edition. Belmont CA: Wadsworth, 2004.

Bok, Derek. *The State of the Nation* Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1996.

Zacharia, Fareed. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2003.

You will also be asked to read reserve readings placed on electronic reserve on the

library website. In addition, you are required to read *The New York Times* each day. You can order the Times at the Bookstore for about \$25.00 per semester, or read the Times in the Library, or monitor it online.

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday 9:30-10:30am

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:30-3:30pm.

Friday 11:00am-12:00pm

There is an appointment schedule on my office door, where you can schedule your own meeting in advance. Drop-ins during office hours are welcome, but you may have to wait to see me. If the regular office hours are not suitable, other appointments can be arranged. Simple questions which may not require an office meeting with me can be sent by email; I will do my best to respond to email within 12-24 hours.

COURSE OUTLINE

Part I. Introduction

Tuesday, Jan. 13: Introduction to the Course: What is Comparative Politics?

Read: McCormick, Introduction (pp. 1-20); and pp. 78-79; 124-25; 168-69; 228-29; 272-73; 334-35; 440-41.

Thursday, Jan. 15: The Comparative Approach in the Social Sciences: The Role of Theory, the Comparative Method

Read: Derek Bok, *The State of the Nation*, Introduction; Gabriel Almond, “Capitalism and Democracy” (electronic reserve); Almond and Powell, *Comparative Politics Today*, excerpts (electronic reserve); Bill and Hargrave, “Elite Theory” (electronic reserve).

Tuesday, Jan. 20: The Comparative Approach in the Social Sciences: Convergence Theory, Globalization, and “Intermestic” politics

Read: Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* excerpts (electronic reserve); Reich, *The Work of Nations* excerpts (electronic reserve); “Globalization” readings (electronic reserve).

Part II: Comparative Politics of Liberal Democracies

Thursday, Jan. 22: The Basis of Comparison: Review of the US Political System

Read: McCormick, pp. 21-33, 36-77; and John Kingdon, *America the Unusual*, excerpts (electronic reserve)

Quiz #1 – in class

(Note: Dr. Menkhaus will be out of the country from Jan. 23-31).

Tuesday, Jan. 27: “Understanding European Politics: The European Union.” Dr. Lou Ortmayer, guest lecture

Read: “The World in 2004,” *The Economist* (electronic reserve); “European Union” reading (electronic reserve).

Thursday, Jan. 29: Film: “Order! Order!” (on the British political system)

Tuesday, Feb. 3: The British Political System

Read: McCormick, ch. 2 (pp. 80-125); and news clippings on British political reform (electronic reserve)

Thursday, Feb. 5: France and Germany

Read: Marin Schain, “Politics in France” and Russell Dalton, “Politics in Germany” – chapters 9 and 10 in Almond and Powell, *Comparative Politics Today* (electronic reserve)

Quiz #2 – map quiz, in class

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Liberal Democracies Beyond Europe: Japan and Israel
Read: McCormick, ch. 3, and Israel reading (electronic reserve)
Take-home essay question for Review #1 handed out today; due in class Tuesday Feb. 17.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Review #1, in-class.

Part II: Comparative Public Policy

Tuesday, Feb.17: The Politics of Prosperity: Comparative Economic and Labor Policy
Read: Bok, ch. 1, 4.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Politics of Prosperity: Comparative Education and Research Policy
Read: Bok, ch. 2, 3.

Tuesday, Feb. 24: Quality of Life Policies
Read: Bok, ch. 5-7.
One paragraph research proposal due in class today.

Thursday, Feb. 26: The Politics of Opportunity, Identity, and Redress
Read: Bok, ch. 8-10.
Quiz #3 in class

Feb. 28- March 7: Spring Break

Tuesday, March 9: The Politics of Personal Security
Read: Bok, ch. 11, 13-14.

Thursday, March 11: Comparative Health Care
Read: Bok, ch. 12.

Tuesday, March 16: Comparative Civil Liberties and Welfare; Conclusions
Read: Bok, ch. 15-20.
Take-home essay portion of review handed out in class; due in class Tuesday March 23.

Thursday, March 18: Review #2, in class

Part III: Politics of Post-Communist and Developing Countries

Tuesday, March 23: Russia and the Politics of Transition
Read: McCormick, pp. 171-183; and ch. 4.

Thursday, March 25: China – Capitalist Revolution in a Communist Political System?
Read: McCormick, ch. 5, and pp.378-79.

Tuesday, March 30: The Third World: Introduction

Read: McCormick, ch. 6-9 (note: these four case studies of Mexico, India, Nigeria, and Egypt will form the basis of discussion for the next four weeks)

Quiz #4 in class

Thursday, April 1: The Context of Poverty and the Challenge of Development

Read: McCormick, pp. 381-95.

Tuesday, April 6: Aspects of Governance: Patronage Politics, Corporatism, Authoritarianism, and Corruption.

Read: "The Day After" *Foreign Policy* (November-December 2003) (electronic reserve)

Running bibliography due in class

Thursday, April 8: The Politics of Newly Industrializing Countries

Read: McCormick, pp. 275-89.

Tuesday, April 13: Easter break

Thursday, April 15: The Debt Crisis

Read: "Debt Crisis" readings (electronic reserve)

Tuesday, April 20: Democratization in the Third World

Read: "Democratization" readings (electronic reserve)

Quiz #5 in class

Thursday, April 22: Illiberal Democracies

Read: Zacharia, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*, all

Tuesday, April 27: Failed States

Read: "Failed States" readings (electronic reserve)

Thursday, April 29: The Rise of Islamic Politics

Read: McCormick, ch. 443-457.

Research paper due in class.

Tuesday, May 4: Globalization, Sovereignty, and the Future of the Third World

Read: National Intelligence Council, *Global Trends 2015* (electronic reserve).

Reading Day: May 6

Final exam week: May 7-12

Appendix A
POL 130 research paper guidelines
The impact of globalization on domestic politics

Menkhaus
Spring 2004

One of the major themes developed on this course is the claim that domestic politics and policies in states around the world are increasingly shaped and influenced by external economic and political forces. “Globalization,” as this trend has come to be called, varies in its impact from country to country. In some cases its impact is modest, in other cases profound; in some cases it has a net positive impact, in others a net negative impact. But nowhere are public policies made in isolation from the pervasive influence of globalization.

Your research paper will take up this theme of the impact of globalization on domestic politics and explore it in a **case study** of a country of your choice. You must provide me the name of the country you propose to study by February 24 (details below). I will review and approve the proposals to make sure no one suggests a country which is not appropriate or feasible for some reason. The countries we have used in class as class studies (US, UK, France, Germany, Japan, Israel, Russia, China, India, Nigeria, Egypt, and Mexico) may not be chosen as topics for your research paper.

Your paper may be structured in whatever way you prefer, but should provide a clear answer to the following questions:

- *To what extent does globalization have an impact on this country’s politics, public policies, and economy? How so? Which sectors of the country’s public policy or economy are especially impacted by globalization, and why? Which sectors of public policy are least impacted? Why? Is your case an example of a country which is losing a significant degree of sovereignty and/or democratic control to globalization, or not? What evidence suggests this is so?*
- *Has globalization been on aggregate a positive or negative factor for the country? Why?*
- *What have been the political and public responses to globalization’s impact on this country? Has the government resisted some aspects of globalization? If so, how? How effective have these protective/evasive measures been?*

Do **NOT** structure your paper explicitly around these bullet points – they are meant only to raise the key questions your research paper should explore, not serve as a surrogate outline for your paper.

The key to a successful research paper will be your ability to:

- accurately identify the most important roles globalization plays in shaping politics and public policy in your case study. This will require that you make good choices about what is and is not important (don’t devote 20% of your paper to a minor issue while ignoring a big one)

- back your theses and claims up with specific evidence drawn from the country’s actual politics over the past ten-fifteen years. This means that the paper must be very well-informed on the key political and public policy debates, decisions, and trends in the country. Much of your research will thus involve getting to know the country’s politics and policies since (roughly) 1990.
- structure your paper in a way that produces a well-organized, clearly written, and persuasive analysis.
- move beyond descriptive summary and *analyze* globalization’s impact in your country study. That means moving beyond the “what?” question and exploring “how” and “why” (and in some cases “why not”)

Deadlines:

February 24: (due in class) *Research proposal.* One paragraph proposal which includes the name of the country and a few sentences explaining why you wish to examine that country and what you anticipate will be the most important issues related to globalization’s impact in that case. You are welcome to hand this in to me earlier if you’d like to get started sooner.

April 6: (due in class). *Running bibliography.* Submit a bibliography, in complete and proper format, of all sources you have found on your country which you intend to use. This need not be a final bibliography, but should be a thorough one. By this date you should be close to completing your research and should be in the process of producing a first draft of the paper. I will not grade or return the bibliography, but will use it to determine your research progress. If you hand in a very thin, incomplete bibliography, that signals to me that you are delaying work on your paper. That may affect your final grade on the paper.

April 29: Final paper (due in class). This due date is **non-negotiable**. Late papers will not be accepted and will receive an F. Exceptions: severe illness or family crisis – will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but be forewarned that I may ask to see drafts of the incomplete paper. If you have little or nothing written only days before the paper is due, you will be penalized for procrastinating and thereby setting yourself up for trouble when a problem arises days before the paper the due. This rule is meant to introduce you to the realities of the World Beyond College. Out there, when you miss a deadline, you lose the contract and sometimes get fired. It’s ugly; get used to it. The “best practice” which will help you to avoid missing deadlines is to *write a first draft well in advance of the due date*. That helps you avoid last-minute crises; it also allows you to submit a final draft which is not a first draft (see free advice, below).

Evaluation:

Evaluation of the paper will be based on a combination of the following:

- *thoroughness and depth of research* (30%). You should be drawing on and citing a wide range of the very best, most reliable and up-to-date sources on country X (see Appendix B). Under-researched papers are painfully obvious to readers. Be sure to begin your research early, and to pursue sources aggressively. A pointer: simply using the computer search engine in the library to locate articles is a HUGE mistake, as it usually identifies only a fraction of sources available. Be sure to include all sources in your bibliography, fully and correctly cited. Make extra efforts to research “gray” literature (unpublished agency reports) – they are often the most detailed and useful.

- *quality of analysis.* (40%). Make sure your paper goes beyond description and engages in thoughtful, careful, and critical analysis. Analysis is absolutely essential -- papers which fail to move beyond description are simply unacceptable and will receive an F.
- *quality of writing and presentation.* (30%). Write with clarity (avoid vague, elusive, or jargon-laden language); make sure that each paragraph starts with a thesis sentence, backed up by evidence, and that the entire paper is organized logically, so that ideas and arguments flow from one to the next; and take care to proofread for misspellings, grammatical errors, awkward sentences, and so on. The evaluation of the executive summary will be included in this portion of the grade.

Length, format, etc.: Text of the analysis itself must be between 12-15 pages, double-spaced, normal (12) font. Number each paper after the title page and executive summary. I will stop reading after page 15 so if your draft is too long, edit it. A title page with your name and title of paper must precede the text.

A one page (maximum) single-spaced executive summary must follow the title page. Its role is to summarize the main findings of the paper in clear and concise fashion. It should not include descriptive information, serve as an introduction, or introduce new analyses which are not in the body of the text. Its language should be exceptionally clear and to the point. Executive summaries are standard features of most written analyses, designed to provide busy decision-makers with a quick look at the most important findings and implications of a study. They are also one of the most difficult parts of a paper to do well. Imagine that the executive summary is the only thing I will read from your research – make sure I get the crucial components of your analysis there.

Do not use bullet points except in the executive summary, where you may use them if you choose.

A complete and accurate bibliography must be included in the back of the paper (do not count the bibliography as part of the 12-15 pages of text). Staple the paper. Do not submit a paper to me as an email attachment.

Citations: You must cite your sources whenever you owe them an intellectual debt for an original argument of analysis they provide, or for data which is not common knowledge, or for wording which you are paraphrasing or quoting directly. Failure to provide such citations constitutes plagiarism, a serious form of cheating, and will be taken directly to the Dean of Students Office for action by the Honor Council. It is **very easy** to avoid plagiarism: (1) know the rules; (2) play it safe (when in doubt, cite); (3) always write down your sources as you draft (never, ever go back later to insert citations – that is when citations get misplaced and mistakes are made); (4) avoid paraphrasing (that is, changing a few words from someone else’s sentence and claiming it as your own, with or without a footnote); (5) don’t wait until the last day to write your paper (in my experience, half of all plagiarism cases are the result of panic). If you are one of the rare students among us whose commitment to the Honor Code is less than complete, and you need a sense of fear to motivate you rather than a sense of ethics, be aware that it is very

easy for professors to identify a possible plagiarism (the wording, tone, and cadence of one's writing style is like a fingerprint, unique to each individual, so that an abrupt change is usually pretty obvious), and know that our hunches can now be easily confirmed in just minutes thanks to the miracle of internet search engine technology. Don't count on a defense of "I just forgot that citation" to cut it. Don't risk your academic and professional career by going this route. Just write your own stuff and be diligent about citations.

Formatting of footnotes and bibliography must be complete and consistent, following the examples provided below. There are a number of different styles of citation in use, depending on one's field and the preferences of the publisher. The key is to follow instructions closely and to remember that the entire point of a citation is to allow the reader to find the source in question easily and quickly. If you fail to provide key information, such as page numbers or complete website location, the citation is unhelpful or even useless.

For this paper, footnotes must be placed at the bottom of the page, not as endnotes and not as parenthetical notes. They must follow the examples below closely, including proper use of italics and placement of information such as volume numbers, publishers, and page numbers:

Footnote Examples:

Book:

Christopher Clapham, *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 222-24.

Periodical article:

Martin Doornbos and John Markakis, "Society and State in Crisis: What Went Wrong in Somalia?" *Review of African Political Economy* vol. 21, no. 59 (January 2000), pp. 82-88.

Chapter in edited volume:

Ken Menkhaus and Lou Ortmayer, "Somalia: Misread Crises and Missed Opportunities," in *Preventive Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World: Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized, and Lessons to be Learned*, edited by Bruce Jentleson (New York: Carnegie Endowment, 1999), pp. 211-237.

Newspaper or magazine article:

Laura Smith, "Iraq and the American Occupation," *Newsweek* no 334 (May 21, 2003), pp. 12-13.

Newspaper or magazine article (no author's name given):

"America and the New Hegemony," *The Economist* no 410 (September 12, 2003), p. 65.

Government or other reports:

International Crisis Group, "Somalia: Combating Terrorism in a Failed State," ICG Africa Report #45 (Brussels: ICG, May 2002), p. 30 (<http://www.crisisweb.org>).

United Nations, Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Somalia* (S/20021201) (New York: United Nations, 25 October 2002), para. 22.

Web-based sources: (note I: the key here is to provide a full website address which will lead the reader directly to the source). (note II: page numbers often cannot be provided on web-based documents. In those cases, if possible identify the section or subsection of the document if possible. If the documents is short – like a BBC website news article of three or four pages – don't worry about the page number. In other cases, full reports with page numbers are on the web – there you should include the page number). Examples:

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, "Greed and Grievance in Civil Wars," World Bank Policy Research Working Paper no. WPS2355 (2000), p. 25
(<http://www.worldbank.org/research/conflict>).

Alexis Masciarelli, "Somalia's Kidnapping Industry," BBC news website (May 24, 2002) (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2005567.stm>).

Citations used multiple times:

Ibid. (same source as previous footnote, and same page number)

Ibid., p. 24. (same source as previous footnote, but different page number)

Crandall, *Drug War*, p. 33. (abbreviated citation with last name of author and shortened title; use when source has already been cited earlier but not in the footnote immediately preceding the current one).

Bibliography format:

All sources must be presented in alphabetical order. Do not enumerate them. Place author's last name first, then first name. If no author, the organization may be the author (e.g., "U.S. Agency for International Development") or the first word of the title of the article is used to determine the article's place in the bibliography (e.g., "Algeria's Election in Doubt"). Indent the citation as shown below. Separate key information by periods, not commas, and do not place the publisher and date of publication in parentheses. Website information should be included as the last piece of information in the citation. Examples:

Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. "Greed and Grievance in Civil Wars." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper no. WPS2355. Washington: The World Bank, 2000.
<http://www.worldbank.org/research/conflict>.

Masciarelli, Alexis. "Somalia's Kidnapping Industry." BBC news website, May 24, 2002. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/2005567.stm>.

Menkhaus, Ken, and Lou Ortmayer. "Somalia: Misread Crises and Missed Opportunities." In *Preventive Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World: Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized, and Lessons to be Learned*. Edited by Bruce Jentleson. New York: Carnegie Endowment, 1999, pp. 211-237.

Free advice:

1. In the World Beyond College, no one *ever* hands in a first draft as a final product. First drafts usually stink. They are filled with spelling mistakes, missing footnotes, inconsistencies, dubious logic, and other flaws which you often can't see while drafting them but which are painfully obvious when you read them a few days later. In the professional world, papers are often put through multiple readings and editing sessions both by the principal author and his or her colleagues before they see the light of day. A good practice to establish is to complete a first draft a week or two before the due date. Let the paper sit for a few days while you work on other things, and then go back to it and read it very carefully and critically with fresh eyes. You'll see lots of places where the paper can be improved, both in terms of substance and wording, spelling, and grammar. You may solicit help from the writing center or ask a friend to read it and offer general advice ("this is unclear, this thesis needs more evidence, etc"), but you may not allow someone to actually proofread and edit the paper. That is your responsibility. If you have questions about the difference between general feedback and editing, ask me.

2. Do your research very early in the semester, as soon as you choose a country. That gives you time to locate sources which may not be immediately available in the library, and better insures that you are as thorough as possible in your research. Remember that to be expert in a country, you need to know the very *best* sources of information and analysis on that country. Don't stop your research too soon. I will be keeping an eye on countries which are selected as cases and you will not want to be in a position where I have read a very important article on some aspect of globalization in country X which you fail to mention.

3. Get in the habit of saving and backing up drafts of your paper at regular intervals. PCs can and do malfunction, and if you do not take precautions you will sooner or later lose an entire project to a melting hard drive or computer virus. I speak from painful experience. Save drafts often (every half hour) and in more than one location; print out partial drafts so at least you have a hard copy in the event of a calamity. Work on a worst-case scenario regarding your PC. I will not accept excuses for late papers involving computer or printer problems.

Appendix B: Sources of Information and Analysis for Research Papers

POL 130

Dr. Menkhaus

Updated 12/03

A major component of the research paper you are asked to write is the quality of the research. You must conduct a thorough search of sources for your research paper. That includes not only identifying all the relevant sources, but reading through them and determining which are the most authoritative and reliable. **Do not rely solely on a handful of sources, and do not restrict yourself to only one or two types of sources.** I will look over both your footnotes and bibliography carefully; if I am aware of important articles or reports on your topic which you do not reference, your grade will be marked down. Be aware that there is an enormous amount of material out there, on even the most minor topic. Don't stop your search too soon; keep digging.

Your inventory of sources must include at least one reference from each of the categories of sources listed below.

1. **Published books.** Useful primarily background analysis, as books are often several years old and even when newly published take over a year to come into print. For smaller, less strategically important countries, there may only be two or three recent books worth using.
2. **Chapters in edited books.** Edited books are often the result of a workshop or group project devoted to a particular issue. Case studies of specific countries are commonly included in these collections, employed to test or illustrate a broader theme framing the book. The specific chapters can be hard to find if the title of the book isn't self-evident. Example: if researching Somalia, you wouldn't want to miss an article by two of your own professors -- Ken Menkhaus and Lou Ortmayer, "Somalia: Misread Crises and Missed Opportunities." In *Preventive Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War World: Opportunities Missed, Opportunities Seized, and Lessons to be Learned*, edited by Bruce Jentleson, 211-237. New York: Carnegie Endowment, 1999.
3. **Articles in refereed journals.** Refereed journals are periodicals for which experts "peer review" submissions and only accept for publication those which pass review. That generally means the reader can have a high level of confidence in the article. Depending on the type of journal, articles can either be fairly topical or quite theoretical. **These articles usually have excellent, up-to-date bibliographies which will point you to other sources. Use these bibliographies as guides to help you determine which sources are most authoritative – if everyone is citing a certain report or article, that's a good sign it's worth relying on.**

Many journals are regional in nature. For African politics, for instance, the following are

some of the top refereed journals:

- *Journal of Modern African Studies*
- *Review of African Political Economy*
- *Africa*
- *African Affairs*
- *Africa Today*
- *African Studies Review*

Latin America:

- *Latin American Research Review*
- *Journal of Latin American Politics and Society*
- *NACLA Report on the Americas*
- *Journal of Latin American Studies*
- *Latin America*
- *Hemisphere*
- *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*

Middle East:

- *Middle East Policy*
- *Middle East Report (MERIP)*
- *Middle East Journal*
- *Middle East Affairs Journal*
- *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
- *Muslim World*
- *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*
- *Journal of South Asian and Middle East Studies*

Asia:

- *China Quarterly*
- *Asian Survey*
- *Journal of Contemporary China*
- *Issues and Studies*
- *Modern China*

Europe:

- *West European Politics*
- *Parliamentary Affairs*
- *Problems of Post-Communism*
- *Government and Opposition*

Other journals are thematic rather than geographic in orientation. For journals devoted in whole or in part to the field of comparative politics, see, for instance:

- *Third World Quarterly*
- *Journal of Democracy*
- *Comparative Politics*
- *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Studies*

- *World Politics*
- *International Affairs*

Still other journals or annual reports are published by aid agencies such as the World Bank, IMF, European Union, or UN specialized agencies. The articles in the journals are not “peer-reviewed” but are still often very useful. The annual reports can be extremely important sources of data and analysis. See, for instance:

- *Finance & development* (IMF)
- *Refugees* (UNHCR)
- *Choices* (UNDP)
- *Economic and social progress in Latin America: Annual Report* (Inter-American Development Bank)
- *Economic Bulletin for Latin America* (UN Economic Commission for Latin America)
- *Economic Bulletin for Africa* (UN Economic Commission for Africa)

Most of these journals have websites which allow you to review an index of articles, making it easy to check if they have anything on your subject. Some allow you to view entire articles on-line (check via the library website for journals we subscribe to).

4. Policy journals. These are journals which specialize in very topical issues, written for the policy-making community (often by policy analysts, not academics) and with a more prescriptive tone. They often have few footnotes or a bibliography. There is a quick turn-around time with these articles so they can be especially valuable for current analysis. These journals also have websites with indices. Check the following:

- *Foreign Affairs*
- *Foreign Policy*
- *Washington Quarterly*
- *World Policy Review*
- *The National Interest*
- *SAIS Review*
- *Current History*
- *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs* (web-based journal)

5. News periodicals and magazines. *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, *Time*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, etc., are all valuable sources, frequently devoting stories to aspects Third World development. Search engines in the library make finding these articles easy.

6. Newspaper and media articles and features. The worldwide web makes monitoring news stories on the Third World much easier than before. Nearly all of the world's best newspapers and multimedia news sources (like CNN) are now at our fingertips. Indeed, you can easily be overwhelmed by the flood of news stories on a country. A few of the best sites include the following:

- *BBC website.* www.bbc.co.uk
- *The New York Times* www.nytimes.com. On the left-side menu, click "international," then click whatever region you wish to follow

The Lexus-Nexus search engine can help you find many more news articles on a country. Note that many if not most of the hundreds of national newspapers from other countries are available on the web. Check the list of international papers provided on our library website – note that it is only a partial listing of what's available.

7. Internet-based news services. A number of internet sites are devoted exclusively to reporting on general or specialized news items on different parts of the world. These are especially valuable for following news on Third World countries which generally get little press coverage in western papers. But take care – some sites are operated by political partisans from a country, and can be very biased. The most useful internet news service for the Third World are:

- *Relief Web.* An excellent UN information network on news and reports related to zones of humanitarian and development work (including most of the Third World), at: <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf>. Click on "by country" and select a country – daily updates are provided on this site. All major reports by development agencies, as well as Security Council reports, are reported on and available via Reliefweb.
- *IRIN.* <http://www.irinnews.org/> IRIN is a UN-operated daily news and analysis source on the web, dedicated to coverage of Asia and Africa.
- *All-Africa News Group* <http://allafrica.com/> This is the largest source of news on Africa on the web, posting over 700 stories per day from a wide range of media sources. An excellent resource. There are comparable web sites for other regions of the Third World.

8. "Gray" literature. One of the most valuable but often least accessible sources for political and economic analysis are unpublished reports by governments, the UN, regional organizations, international organizations, think tanks, advocacy groups, databases, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Happily, the internet has greatly increased access to this type of analysis, but you still have to look hard. If you put some time into this area of research, you will be richly rewarded. For a small sampling of websites where valuable country reports or data might be found (as well as links to other sites), see:

- US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>
- US Agency for International Development <http://www.usaid.gov/>
- UK Department for International Development <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>

- UN (check especially Security Council reports) <http://www.un.org/>
- UNICEF <http://www.unicef.org/>
- World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>
- Center for Strategic and International Studies <http://www.csis.org/>
- International Crisis Group <http://www.crisisweb.org/>
- Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>
- Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>
- Freedom House <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>
- Africa Action <http://www.africaaction.org/index.php>
- Columbia International Affairs Online <http://www.ciaonet.org/>
- Overseas Development Institute <http://www.odi.org.uk/> (click one of the research groups at top right of screen)
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://www.ceip.org/>
- Brookings Institution <http://www.brook.edu/>
- RAND <http://www.rand.org/>

9. **Specialized news analysis/intelligence services.** This is not an easy option for you, and you are **not** required to have citations from these sources as they are too expensive for our library. But you should be aware of their existence. If you were researching Africa, for instance, *African Confidential* and *Indian Ocean Newsletter* are among the most valuable sources of inside news in this category.