

CASES IN

COMPARATIVE

# POLITICS



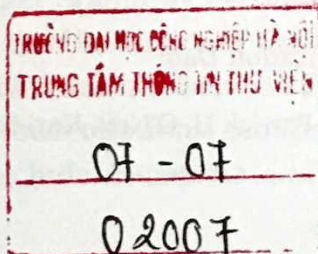
THIRD  
EDITION

PATRICK H. O'NEIL  
KARL FIELDS  
DON SHARE



# CASES IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

THIRD EDITION



PATRICK H. O'NEIL, KARL FIELDS,  
AND DON SHARE



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## PREFACE

*Cases in Comparative Politics* can be traced to an ongoing experiment undertaken by the three comparative political scientists in the Politics and Government Department at the University of Puget Sound. Over the years the three of us spent much time discussing the challenges of teaching our introductory course in comparative politics. In those discussions we came to realize that each of us taught the course so differently that students completing our different sections of the course did not really share a common conceptual vocabulary. Over several years we fashioned a unified curriculum for Introduction to Comparative Politics, drawing on the strengths of each of our particular approaches.

All three of us now equip our students with a common conceptual vocabulary. All of our students now learn about states, nations, and different models of political economy. All students learn the basics about nondemocratic and democratic regimes, and they become familiar with characteristics of communist systems and advanced democracies. In developing our curriculum, we became frustrated trying to find cases that were concise, sophisticated, and written to address the major concepts introduced in Patrick H. O'Neil's textbook, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. Thus, we initially co-authored six cases adhering to a set of criteria:

- Each case is concise, making it possible to assign an entire case, or even two cases, for a single class session.
- All cases include discussion of major geographic and demographic features, themes in the historical development of the state, political regimes (including the constitution, branches of government, the electoral system, and local government), political conflict and competition (including the party system and civil society), society, political economy, and current issues. This uniform structure allowed us to assign specific sections from two or more cases simultaneously.
- The cases follow the general framework of *Essentials of Comparative Politics* but could also be used in conjunction with other texts.



After the publication of the initial six cases (the United Kingdom, Japan, China, Russia, Mexico, and South Africa), we received positive feedback from teachers of comparative politics. Drawing on their comments and suggestions, we wrote new cases to accommodate individual preferences and give instructors more choice. We subsequently added cases on Brazil, France, India, Iran, the United States, and Nigeria. Based on feedback from instructors, this third edition adds Germany, bringing the total number of cases to thirteen.

Selecting only thirteen cases is, of course, fraught with drawbacks. Nevertheless, we believe that this collection represents countries that are both important in their own right and representative of a broad range of political systems. Each of the thirteen cases has special importance in the context of the study of comparative politics. Five of our cases (France, Germany, Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom) are advanced industrial democracies, but they represent a wide range of institutions, societies, political economic models, and relationships with the world. Japan is an important instance of a non-Western industrialized democracy and an instructive case of democratization imposed by foreign occupiers. While the United Kingdom and the United States have been known for political stability, France and Germany have fascinating histories of political turmoil and regime change.

Two of our cases, China and Russia, share a past of Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism. Communism thrived in these two large and culturally distinct nations. Both suffered from the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of communist parties and, at times, despotic leaders. The Soviet Communist regime imploded and led to a troubled and incomplete transition to capitalism and democracy. China has retained its communist authoritarian political system but has experimented with a remarkable transition to a largely capitalist political economy.

The remaining six cases illustrate the diversity of the developing world. Of the six, India has had the longest history of stable democratic rule, but like most countries in the developing world, it has nevertheless struggled with massive poverty and inequality. The remaining five have experienced various forms of authoritarianism. Brazil and Nigeria endured long periods of military rule. Mexico's history of military rule was ended by an authoritarian political party that ruled for much of the twentieth century through a variety of nonmilitary means. South Africa experienced decades of racially based authoritarianism that excluded the vast majority of its population. Iran experienced a modernizing authoritarian monarchy followed by its current authoritarian regime, a theocracy ruled by Islamic clerics.

In writing the cases we have incurred numerous debts. First, and foremost, we wish to thank our wonderful colleagues in the Department of Politics and Government at the University of Puget Sound. By encouraging us to develop a common curriculum for our Introduction to Comparative Politics



offering, and by allowing us to team-teach the course in different combinations, they allowed us to learn from each other. These cases are much stronger as a result. The university has also been extremely supportive in recognizing that writing for the classroom is as valuable as writing scholarly publications, and in providing course releases and summer stipends toward that end. Student assistants Brett Venn, Jess Box, and Liz Kaster proved extremely helpful in conducting research for our various cases; Irene Lim has, as always, supported us with her amazing technical and organizational skills. Our colleague Bill Haltom provided very helpful input throughout the project. Debby Nagusky contributed valuable copyediting assistance.

We very much appreciate the many helpful comments we have received from fellow instructors of comparative politics, including Emily Acevedo (California State University, Los Angeles), Josephine Andrews (University of California, Davis), Alex Avila (Mesa Community College), Jeremy Busacca (Whittier College), William Heller (Binghamton University), Robert Jackson (University of Redlands), Ricardo Larémont (Binghamton University), Mary Malone (University of New Hampshire), Pamela Martin (Coastal Carolina University), Mark Milewicz (Gordon College), John Occhipinti (Canisius College), Anthony O'Regan (Los Angeles Valley College), Paul Rousseau (University of Windsor), and José Vadi (Cal Poly, Pomona). We would especially like to thank Emmanuel J. Teitelbaum, from the Department of Political Science at the George Washington University, and Peter H. Loedel, Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at West Chester University, for providing insightful feedback on this most recent edition.

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Don Share  
Karl Fields  
Patrick H. O'Neil

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***A note about the data:*** The data that are presented throughout the text in numerous tables, charts, and other figures are drawn from the *CIA World Fact* unless otherwise noted.