accommodation an informal agreement or settlement between the government and important interest groups that is responsive to the interest groups’ concerns for policy or program benefits.

African South African usage refers to black Bantu language speakers, the demographic majority of South African citizens.

Afrikaner descendants of Dutch, French, German, and Scots settlers speaking a language (Afrikaans) derived heavily from Dutch and politically mobilized as an ethnic group through the twentieth century.

Amerindian original peoples of North and South America; indigenous people.

ancien régime the monarchical regime that ruled France until the Revolution of 1789, when it was toppled by a popular uprising. The term is also used to describe long-established regimes in other countries ruled by undemocratic elites.

anticlericalism opposition to the power of churches or clergy in politics. In some countries, for example, France and Mexico, this opposition has focused on the role of the Catholic Church in politics.

apartheid in Afrikaans, “separateness.” First used in 1929 to describe Afrikaner nationalist proposals for strict racial separation and “to ensure the safety of the white race.” Declared government policy after 1948 but dropped from the official lexicon in the 1980s. Elaborated thereafter into a program of hierarchically arranged administrative and representative institutions for each racial and ethnic group in which a central state under exclusive white control predominated.

Assembly of Experts nominates and can remove the Supreme Leader in Iran. The assembly is elected by the general electorate but almost all its members are clerics.

authoritarian/authoritarianism a system of rule in which power depends not on popular legitimacy but on the coercive force of the political authorities. Hence, there are few personal and group freedoms. Authoritarian regimes are also characterized by near absolute power in the executive branch and few, if any, legislative and judicial controls.

autonomous okrug one of originally 10 territorial units of the Russian Federation defined in the 1993 constitution to be among the eighty-nine members of the federation, but reduced to 4 by 2008, as some of these small ethnically-based units have been merged with the oblast or krai in which they are located.

autonomous region in the People’s Republic of China, a territorial unit equivalent to a province that contains a large concentration of ethnic minorities. These regions for example, Tibet, have some autonomy in the cultural sphere but in most policy matters are strictly subordinate to the central government.

ayatollah literally, “sign of God.” High-ranking clerics in Iran. The most senior ones—often no more than half a dozen—are known as grand ayatollahs.

bazaar an urban marketplace where shops, workshops, small businesses, and export-importers are located.

boer literally farmer, modern usage is a derogatory reference to Afrikaners.

brahmin highest caste in the Hindu caste system of India.

bureaucracy an organization structured hierarchically, in which lower-level officials are charged with administering regulations codified in rules that specify impersonal, objective guidelines for making decisions. In the modern world, many large organizations, especially business firms and the executive branches of states, are organized along bureaucratic lines.

cabinet the body of officials (ministers, secretaries, etc.) who direct executive departments presided over by the chief executive (prime minister, president, etc.) In parliamentary systems, the cabinet and high-ranking subcabinet ministers (also known as the government) are considered collectively responsible to parliament.

cabinet government a system of government in which most executive power is held by the cabinet, headed by a prime minister.

cadre a person who occupies a position of authority in a communist party-state; cadres may or may not be Communist Party members.

capitalism an economic system, and the ideology behind it, that is based on private property, the profit motive, competition, and a free market in which the state plays a limited role. See also laissez-faire.

caste system India’s Hindu society is divided into castes. According to the Hindu religion, membership in a caste is determined at birth. Castes form a rough social and economic hierarchy. See also Brahmin; untouchables.

causal theories an influential approach in comparative politics that involves trying to explain why “If X happens, then Y is the result.” In other words, how does X (the
independent variable) cause, or influence, Y (the dependent variable).

civil society refers to the space occupied by voluntary associations outside the state, for example, professional associations (lawyers, doctors, teachers), trade unions, student and women’s groups, religious bodies, and other voluntary association groups. The term is similar to society, although civil society implies a degree of organization absent from the more inclusive term society.

clientelism (or patron-client networks) an informal relationship in which a powerful patron (for example, a traditional local boss, government agency, or dominant party) offers resources such as land, contracts, protection, or jobs in return for the support and services (such as labor or votes) of lower-status and less powerful clients; corruption, preferential treatment, and inequality are characteristic of clientelist politics.

cohabitation the term used by the French to describe the situation in the Fifth Republic when a president and prime minister belong to opposing political coalitions.

Cold War the hostile relations that prevailed between the United States and the Soviet Union from the late 1940s until the demise of the USSR in 1991. Although an actual (hot) war never directly occurred between the two superpowers, they clashed indirectly by supporting rival powers and constrained by the provisions of a constitution.

collectivization a process undertaken in the Soviet Union under Stalin from 1929 into the early 1930s and in China under Mao in the 1950s, by which agricultural land was removed from private ownership and organized into large state and collective farms.

collective identities the groups with which people identify, including gender, social class, race, region, and religion, and which are the “building blocks” for social and political action. Any given individual has a variety of identities, for example, a Muslim woman who is a member of the Kurdish ethnic group of northern Iraq. There is enormous variation regarding which collective identities are uppermost for particular individuals, which ones are influential within particular countries, and how effectively political systems process conflicts among collective identities. This question is among the most important issues studied in comparative politics.

command economy A form of socialist economy in which government decisions (“commands”) rather than market mechanisms (such as supply and demand) are the major influences in determining the nation’s economic direction; also called central planning.

communism a system of social organization based on the common ownership and coordination of production. According to Marxism (the theory of German philosopher Karl Marx, 1818–1883), communism is a culminating stage of history, following capitalism and socialism. In historical practice, leaders of China, the Soviet Union, and other states that have proclaimed themselves seeking to achieve communism have ruled through a single party, the Communist Party, which has controlled the state and society in an authoritarian manner, and have applied Marxism-Leninism to justify their rule.

communist party-state a type of nation-state in which the Communist Party attempts to exercise a complete monopoly on political power and controls all important state institutions. See also communism.

comparative politics the study of the domestic politics, political institutions, and conflicts of countries. Often involves comparisons among countries and through time within single countries, emphasizing key patterns of similarity and difference.

comparativist a political scientist who studies the similarities and differences in the domestic politics of various countries. See also comparative politics.

conditionality the requirement that certain commitments be made by receiving governments in exchange for credits or other types of assistance provided by international or foreign agencies, to ensure that the goals of the donor agency are respected.

conservative the belief that existing political, social, and economic arrangements should be preserved. Historically, this has involved a defense of the inequalities (of class, race, gender, and so on) that are part of the existing order; often used to identify the economic and social policies favored by right-of-center parties.

consolidated democracies democratic political systems that have been solidly and stably established for an ample period of time and in which there is relatively consistent adherence to the core democratic principles.

constitutional monarchy system of government in which the head of state ascends by heredity, but is limited in powers and constrained by the provisions of a constitution.

co-optation incorporating activists into the system while accommodating some of their concerns.

corporatist state a system in which important interests, such as unions and business associations, are formally included in government decision-making processes.

Corruption Perception Index a measure developed by Transparency International that “ranks countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. It is a composite index, drawing on corruption-related data in expert surveys carried out by a variety of reputable institutions. It reflects the views of businesspeople and analysts from
democratization

Transition from authoritarian rule to a democratic political order. In South Africa the term usually refers to the period of negotiated political transition between 1990 and 1994; between the ending of official bans on the liberation movements and the general elections. Also called a democratic transition.

demokratizatsiya

The policy of democratization identified by former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987 as an essential component of perestroika. The policy was part of a gradual shift away from a vanguard party approach toward an acceptance of democratic norms. Initially, the policy embraced multicandidate elections and a broadening of political competition within the Communist Party itself; after 1989, it involved acceptance of a multiparty system.

d dependent variable

An important part of social (and natural) scientific research. The outcome or result to be measured or explained and which is dependent on other factors (independent variables). The effect in a cause-and-effect question.

deregulation

The process of dismantling state regulations that govern social and economic life. Deregulation increases the power of private actors, especially business firms.

devolutional state

A nation-state in which the government carries out policies that effectively promote national economic growth.

dictatorship

A non-democratic form of government in which political power is highly concentrated in individuals or organizations that are not accountable to citizens through elections or other means. See authoritarianism; totalitarianism.

dirigisme

A French term denoting that the state plays a leading role in supervising the economy. In contrast to socialism or communism, firms remain privately owned under a system of dirigisme. At the other extreme, dirigisme differs from the situation where the state has a relatively small role in economic governance.

distributional politics

The use of power, particularly by the state, to allocate some kind of valued resource among competing groups.

dual society

A society and economy that are sharply divided into a traditional, usually poorer, and a modern, usually richer, sector.

deregulation

The lifting or relaxation of government controls over the economy, including the reduction of import taxes (tariffs) and the phasing out of subsidized prices for producers and consumers.

economic liberalization

The removal of government control and regulation over private enterprise.

ejidatario

Recipient of ejido land grant in Mexico.

ejido

Land granted by Mexican government to an organized group of peasants.

Emergency (1975–1977)

The period when Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi suspended many formal democratic rights and ruled in an authoritarian manner.

Environmental Performance Index

A measure of how close countries come to meeting specific benchmarks for national pollution control and natural resource management. See http://www.yale.edu/epi.

European Union (EU)

An organization of European countries created in 1958 to promote economic integration and political cooperation among European states. At first, the EU’s mandate was primarily to reduce tariff barriers among West European states. Since then, more
countries throughout Europe have joined the EU, and its powers have vastly expanded to include promoting common policies on immigration, technical standards, and economic and monetary regulation.

**Executive** the agencies of government that implement or execute policy. The highest levels of the executive in most countries are a president or prime minister and cabinet. The top executive officeholders supervise the work of administrative departments and bureaus.

**Expediency Council** a committee set up in Iran to resolve differences between the Majles (parliament) and the Guardian Council.

**Failed states** states in which the government no longer functions effectively. A state may fail when its leaders violate the rule of law and prey on the population or when forces within the country become more powerful than the government.

**Farsi** Persian word for the Persian language. Fars is a province in Central Iran.

**Fatwa** a pronouncement issued by a high-ranking Islamic cleric.

**Foreign direct investment** ownership of or investment in cross-border enterprises in which the investor plays a direct managerial role.

**Foundation of the Oppressed** a clerically controlled foundation set up after the revolution in Iran.

**Free trade** international commerce that is relatively unregulated or unconstrained by tariffs (special payments imposed by governments on exports or imports).

**Freedom in the World Rating** an annual evaluation by Freedom House of the level of freedom in countries around the world measured according to political rights and civil liberties through “a multi-layered process of analysis and evaluation by a team of regional experts and scholars.” Countries are ranked in 5 gradations between 1.0 and 7.0, with 1.0–2.5 being “Free”; 3.0–5.0, “Not Free”; and 5.5–7.0, “Not free.”

**Fundamentalism** a term recently popularized to describe extremist religious movements throughout the world.

**Fusion of powers** a constitutional principle that merges the authority of branches of government, in contrast to the principle of separation of powers. In Britain, for example, Parliament is the supreme legislative, executive, and judicial authority. The fusion of legislature and executive is also expressed in the function and personnel of the cabinet.

**Gender gap** politically significant differences in social attitudes and voting behavior between men and women.

**Glasnost** Gorbachev’s policy of “openness” or “publicity,” which involved an easing of controls on the media, arts, and public discussion, leading to an outburst of public debate and criticism covering most aspects of Soviet history, culture, and policy.

**Global Gender Gap** a measure of “the extent to which women in 58 countries have achieved equality with men in five critical areas: economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment, and health and well-being.” See www.weforum.org.

**Globalization** the intensification of worldwide interconnectedness associated with the increased speed and magnitude of cross-border flows of trade, investment and finance, and processes of migration, cultural diffusion, and communication.

**Grande écoles** prestigious and highly selective schools of higher education in France that train top civil servants, engineers, and business executives.

**Grands corps** elite networks of graduates of selective training schools in France.

**Great Leap Forward** a movement launched by Mao Zedong in 1958 to industrialize China very rapidly and thereby propel it toward communism. The Leap ended in economic disaster in 1960, causing one of the worst famines in human history.

**Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution** the political campaign launched in 1966 by Chairman Mao Zedong to stop what he saw as China’s drift away from socialism and toward capitalism. The campaign led to massive purges in the Chinese Communist Party, the widespread persecution of China’s intellectuals, and the destruction of invaluable cultural objects. The Cultural Revolution officially ended in 1976 after Mao’s death and the arrest of some of his most radical followers.

**Green revolution** a strategy for increasing agricultural (especially food) production, involving improved seeds, irrigation, and abundant use of fertilizers.

**Gross domestic product (GDP)** the total of all goods and services produced within a country that is used as a broad measure of the size of its economy.

**Gross national product (GNP)** a broad measure of the size of an economy. Similar to gross domestic product, but also takes into account income received from foreign sources. The World Bank started using the term gross national income rather than gross national product in its reports and statistics in 2002.

**Guanxi** a Chinese term that means “connections” or “relationships,” and describes personal ties between individuals based on such things as common birthplace or mutual acquaintances. Guanxi are an important factor in China’s political and economic life.

**Guardian Council** a committee created in the Iranian constitution to oversee the Majles (the parliament).
guerrilla warfare a military strategy based on small bands of soldiers (the guerrillas) who use hit-and-run tactics to attack a numerically superior and better-armed enemy.

hegemonic power a state that can control the pattern of alliances and terms of the international order, and often shapes domestic political developments in countries throughout the world.

hezbollah literally “partisans of God.” In Iran, the term is used to describe religious vigilantes. In Lebanon, it is used to describe the Shi’i militia.

hojjat al-Islam literally, “the proof of Islam.” In Iran, it means a medium-ranking cleric.

homelands areas reserved for exclusive African occupation, established through the provisions of the 1913 and 1936 land legislation and later developed as semi-autonomous ethnic states during the apartheid era. At their fullest extent they represented 13 percent of South Africa’s land surface, though at one stage they accommodated more than half the national population.

household responsibility system the system put into practice in China beginning in the early 1980s in which the major decisions about agricultural production are made by individual farm families based on the profit motive rather than by a people’s commune or the government.

Human Development Index (HDI) a composite number used by the United Nations to measure and compare levels of achievement in health, knowledge, and standard of living. HDI is based on the following indicators: life expectancy, adult literacy rate and school enrollment statistics, and gross domestic product per capita at purchasing power parity.

ideology a set of fundamental ideas, values, or beliefs about how a political, economic, or social system should be organized. Examples of ideology include capitalism, communism, and socialism.

imam jum’ehs prayer leaders in Iran’s main urban mosques. Appointed by the Supreme Leader, they have considerable authority in the provinces.

import substituting industrialization (ISI) a strategy for industrialization based on domestic manufacture of previously imported goods to satisfy domestic market demands.

independent variable an important part of social (and natural) scientific research. A factor that influences the outcome or result (the dependent variable) to be measured or explained. The cause in a cause-and-effect question.

Industrial Revolution A period of rapid and destabilizing social, economic, and political changes caused by the introduction of large-scale factory production, originating in England in the middle of the eighteenth century.

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) India’s civil service, a highly professional and talented group of administrators who run the Indian government on a day-to-day basis.

indicative planning a term that describes a national plan identifying desirable priorities for economic and social development. Indicative planning can be distinguished from plans developed under command economies.

indigenous groups population of Amerindian heritage in Mexico.

influx control a system of controls in South Africa that regulated African movement between cities and between towns and the countryside, enforcing residence in the homelands and restricting African choice of employment. Administered through the pass laws dating from the early nineteenth century and abolished in 1986.

informal sector (economy) economic activities outside the formal economy that are unregulated by economic or legal institutions.

insider privatization a term used in relation to Russia to refer to the transformation of formerly state-owned enterprises into joint-stock companies or private enterprises in which majority control of the enterprise is in the hands of employees and/or managers of that enterprise.

iron rice bowl a feature of China’s socialist economy during the Maoist era (1949–76) that provided guarantees of lifetime employment, income, and basic cradle-to-grave benefits to most urban and rural workers. Economic reforms beginning in the 1980s that aimed at improving efficiency and work motivation sought to smash the iron rice bowl and link employment and income more directly to individual effort.

jihad literally “struggle.” Although often used to mean armed struggle against unbelievers, it can also mean spiritual struggle for more self-improvement.

joint-stock company a business firm whose capital is divided into shares that can be held by individuals, groups of individuals, or governmental units. In Russia, formation of joint-stock companies has been the primary method for privatizing large state enterprises.

judicial review the prerogative of a high court (such as the U.S. Supreme Court) to nullify actions by the executive and legislative branches of government that in its judgment violate the constitution.

jurist’s guardianship Khomeini’s concept that the Iranian clergy should rule on the grounds that they are the divinely appointed guardians of both the law and the people.

Keynesianism named after the British economist John Maynard Keynes, an approach to economic policy in
which state economic policies are used to regulate the economy in an attempt to achieve stable economic growth. During recession, state budget deficits are used to expand demand in an effort to boost both consumption and investment and create employment. During periods of high growth when inflation threatens, cuts in government spending and a tightening of credit are used to reduce demand.

krai one of the six territorial units in the Russian Federation that are defined by the constitution of 1993 to be among the eighty-nine members of the federation, with a status equal to that of the republics and oblasts. Like the oblasts during the Soviet period, the krai were defined purely as territorial-administrative units within a particular republic of the Soviet Union. A krai differed from an oblast in that part of its border was on an external boundary of the USSR or it included a mixture of diverse ethnic territories (or both). Generally a krai is a geographically large unit, but relatively sparsely populated.

laissez-faire a term taken from the French, which means “to let be,” in other words, to allow to act freely. In political economy, it refers to the pattern in which the state management is limited to such matters as enforcing contracts and protecting property rights, while private market forces are free to operate with only minimal state regulation.

legitimacy a belief by powerful groups and the broad citizenry that a state exercises rightful authority. In the contemporary world, a state is said to possess legitimacy when it enjoys consent of the governed, which usually involves democratic procedures and the attempt to achieve a satisfactory level of economic development and equitable distribution of resources.

Lok Sabha the lower house of parliament in India where all major legislation must pass before becoming law.

macroeconomic policy government policy intended to shape the overall economic system at the national level by concentrating on policy targets such as inflation and growth.

mafia a term borrowed from Italy and widely used in Russia to describe networks of organized criminal activity that pervade both economic and governmental securities in that country and activities such as the demanding of protection money, bribe taking by government officials, contract killing, and extortion.

maharajas India’s traditional rulers—monarchs—who retained their positions during the colonial period but were removed from power when the Indian republic was established.

Majles the Iranian parliament; from the Arabic term for “assembly.”

maquiladora factories that produce goods for export, often located along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Mandal Commission a government-appointed commission in India headed by J. P. Mandal to consider seat reservations and quotas to redress caste discrimination.

market reform a strategy of economic transformation begun by the Yeltsin government in Russia in the 1990s and the Deng Xiaoping government in China in the 1980s that involves reducing the role of the state in managing the economy and increasing the role of market forces. In Russia, market reform is part of the transition to postcommunism and includes the extensive transfer of the ownership of economic assets from the state to private hands. In China, market reform has been carried out under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and involves less extensive privatization.

martial law a period of time during which the normal procedures of government are suspended and the executive branch enforces the law with military power.

Marxism-Leninism the theoretical foundation of communism based on the ideas of the German philosopher, Karl Marx (1818–1883), and the leader of the Russian Revolution, V. I. Lenin (1870–1924). Marxism, in essence, a theory of historical development that emphasizes the struggle between exploiting and exploited classes, particularly the struggle between the bourgeoisie (capitalists) and the proletariat (the industrial working class). Leninism emphasizes the strategy and organization to be used by the communist party to overthrow capitalism and seize power as a first step on the road to communism.

maslahat Arabic term for “expediency,” “prudence,” or “advisability.” It is now used in Iran to refer to what is best for the Islamic Republic.

mestizo a person of mixed white, indigenous (Amerindian), and sometimes African descent.

migrant labor workers in apartheid South Africa who were denied permanent residence rights in towns under the system of influx control and who would be employed on annual contracts that denied them job security. More generally, refers to laborers who move to another location to take a job, often a low-paying, temporary one.

middle-level theory seeks to explain phenomena in a limited range of cases, in particular, a specific set of countries with particular characteristics, such as parliamentary regimes, or a particular type of political institution (such as political parties) or activity (such as protest).

monetarism an approach to economic policy that assumes a natural rate of unemployment, determined by the labor market, and rejects the instrument of government spending to run budgetary deficits for stimulating the economy and creating jobs.
mosque  Muslim place of worship, equivalent to a church, temple, or synagogue.

most different case analysis  the logic of most different case analysis is that, by comparing cases that differ widely, one seeks to isolate a factor or factors (termed the independent variable or variables) that both cases share—despite their differences in other respects—that might explain an outcome (or dependent variable).

nationalization  the policy by which the state assumes ownership and operation of private companies.

nation-state  distinct, politically defined territory with its own state, relatively coherent culture, economy, and ethnic and other social identities. See also country.

neoliberalism  a term used to describe government policies that aim to promote private enterprise by reducing government economic regulation, tax rates, and social spending.

newly industrializing countries (NICs)  a term used to describe a group of countries that achieved rapid economic development beginning in the 1960s largely stimulated by robust international trade (particularly exports) and guided by government policies. The core NICs are usually considered to be Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Singapore, but other countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Malaysia, Mexico, and Thailand, are often included in this category.

nomenklatura  this is a system of personnel selection used in the Soviet Union and China under which the Communist Party maintained control over the appointment of important officials in all spheres of social, economic, and political life.

nonaligned bloc  countries that refused to ally with either the United States or the USSR during the Cold War years.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)  a treaty among the United States, Mexico, and Canada implemented on January 1, 1994, that largely eliminates trade barriers among the three nations and establishes procedures to resolve trade disputes. NAFTA serves as a model for an eventual Free Trade Area of the Americas that could include most Western Hemisphere nations.

oblast  one of forty-nine territorial units in the Russian Federation defined by the constitution of 1993 to be among the eighty-nine members of the federation, with a status equal to that of the republics and krai. An oblast generally lacks a non-Russian national/ethnic basis. During the Soviet period, the oblasts were defined purely as territorial-administrative units located within a particular republic of the Soviet Union. See also autonomous okrug; republic.

oligarchs  a small group of powerful and wealthy individuals who gained ownership and control of important sectors of Russia’s economy in the context of the privatization of state assets in the 1990s.

OPEC  Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Founded in 1960 by Iran, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia, it now includes most oil-exporting countries with the notable exceptions of Mexico and former members of the Soviet Union. It tries to regulate prices by regulating production.

other backward classes  the middle or intermediary castes in India that have been accorded reserved seats in public education and employment since the early 1990s. See also reservations.

panchayats  in India, elected bodies at the village, district, and state levels that have development and administrative responsibilities.

para-statals  state-owned, or at least state-controlled, corporations, created to undertake a broad range of activities, from control and marketing of agricultural production to provision of banking services, operating airlines, and other transportation facilities and public utilities.

parity law  a French law passed in 2000 that directs political parties to nominate an equal number of men and women for most elections.

parliamentary democracy  system of government in which the chief executive is answerable to the legislature and may be dismissed by it. Parliamentary democracy stands in contrast to a presidential system, in which the chief executive is elected in a national ballot and is independent of the legislative branch.

parliamentary sovereignty  a constitutional principle of government (principally in Britain) by which the legislature reserves the power to make or overturn any law without recourse by the executive, the judiciary, or the monarchy. Only Parliament can nullify or overturn legislation approved by Parliament; and Parliament can force the cabinet or the government to resign by voting a motion of no confidence.

pasdaran  Persian term for guards, used to refer to the army of Revolutionary Guards formed during Iran’s Islamic Revolution.

pass laws  laws in apartheid South Africa that required Africans to carry identity books in which were stamped the permits they were required to have to travel between the countryside and the cities. The identity books also included the details of their employment. Failure to carry such books was an offense and during the 1960s, 300,000 “pass offenders” were imprisoned annually.
Glossary

**patrimonial state** a system of governance in which a single ruler treats the state as personal property (patrimony). Appointments to public office are made on the basis of unswerving loyalty to the ruler. In turn, state officials exercise wide authority in other domains, such as the economy, often for their personal benefit and that of the ruler, to the detriment of the general population.

**patronage system** a political system in which government officials appoint loyal followers to positions rather than choosing people based on their qualifications. May also involve the exchange of favors between an office holder and a particular group, often trading something the group wants for political support.

**People of the Book** the Muslim term for recognized religious minorities, such as Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians.

**perestroika** the policy of restructuring embarked on by Gorbachev when he became head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985. Initially, the policy emphasized decentralization of economic decision making, increased enterprise autonomy, expanded public discussion of policy issues, and a reduction in the international isolation of the Soviet economy. Over time, restructuring took on a more political tone, including a commitment to glasnost and demokratizatsiia.

**political economy** the study of the interaction between the state and the economy, that is, how the state and political processes affect the organization of production and exchange (the economy) and how the organization of the economy affects political processes.

**power sharing** constitutional arrangements to ensure that the major political parties share executive authority. These can include mandatory coalitions and allocation of senior official positions between parties.

**power vertical** a term used by Russian president Vladimir Putin to describe a unified and hierarchical structure of executive power ranging from the federal level to the local level, which can be reinforced by various mechanisms such as appointments by higher level officials and oversight of activities by higher organs over lower ones.

**prefects** French administrators appointed by the minister of the interior to coordinate state agencies and programs within the one hundred French departments or localities. Prefects had enormous power until decentralization reforms in the 1980s transferred some of their responsibilities to elected local governments.

**privatization** the sale of state-owned enterprises to private companies or investors. Those who support the policy claim that private ownership is superior to government ownership because for-profit entities promote greater efficiency. Privatization is a common central component of structural adjustment programs to curtail the losses associated with these enterprises and generate state revenue when they are sold.

**privatization voucher** a certificate worth 10,000 rubles issued by the government to each Russian citizen in 1992 to be used to purchase shares in state enterprises undergoing the process of privatization. Vouchers could also be sold for cash or disposed of through newly created investment funds.

**proportional representation (PR)** a system of political representation in which seats are allocated to parties within multimember constituencies, roughly in proportion to the votes each party receives. PR usually encourages the election to parliament of more political parties than single-member district winner-take-all systems, such as in the United States.

**purchasing power parity (PPP)** a method of calculating the value of a country’s money based on the actual cost of buying certain goods and services in that country rather than how many U.S. dollars they are worth. PPP is widely considered to be a more accurate indicator for comparing standards of living, particularly in countries at very different levels of economic development.

**pyramid debt** a situation when a government or organization takes on debt obligations at progressively higher rates of interest in order to pay off existing debt. In some cases, a structure of pyramid debt can result in a default on the entire debt obligation if interest owed becomes unmanageable.

**quangos** acronym for quasi-nongovernmental organizations, the term used in Britain for nonelected bodies that are outside traditional governmental departments or local authorities. They have considerable influence over public policy in areas such as education, health care, and housing.

**Qur’an** the Muslim Bible.

**Rayja Sabha** India’s upper house of parliament; considerably less significant politically than the Lok Sabha.

**referendum** an election in which citizens are asked to approve (or reject) a policy proposal.

**regulations** the rules that explain the implementation of laws. When Congress passes a law, it sets broad principles for implementation, but how the law is actually implemented is determined by regulations written by executive branch agencies. The regulation-writing process allows interested parties to influence the eventual shape of the law in practice.

**rentier state** a country that obtains much of its revenue from the export of oil or other natural resources.

**republic** in contemporary usage, a political regime in which leaders are not chosen on the basis of their inherited...
background (as in a monarchy). A republic may, but need not be, democratic. For Russia, a republic is one of twenty-one territorial units in the Russian Federation that are defined by the constitution of 1993 to be among the eighty-nine members of the federation and named after the indigenous non-Russian population group that inhabits the republic. A republic generally was originally formed in recognition of the presence of a non-Russian national or ethnic group residing in the territory. In the Soviet period, most of these units were called autonomous republics.

**reservations** jobs or admissions to colleges reserved by the government of India for specific social groups, particularly underprivileged groups.

**revolution** the process by which an established political regime is replaced (usually by force and with broad popular participation) and a new regime established that introduces radical changes throughout society. Revolutions are different from coups d’état in that there is widespread popular participation in revolutions, whereas coups d’état are led by small groups of elites.

**sanctions** international embargoes on economic and cultural contracts with a particular country; applied selectively to South Africa by various governments and the United Nations from 1948 until 1994.

**scheduled castes** the lowest caste groups in India; also known as the untouchables. See also caste system and untouchables.

**secularism** a doctrine that mandates maintaining a separation between church and state. Secularism requires that the state be neutral toward religious faiths and that public policy not be dictated by the teaching of any particular religion. A cause of conflict in regimes committed to secularism often involves where to draw the boundary between religion and the public sphere.

**Sepoy Rebellion** an armed uprising by Indian princes against expansion of British colonialism in India in 1857. Following the failure of this rebellion—also known as the Indian Mutiny of 1857—Britain assumed full control of India, which it ruled until 1947.

**settler state** colonial or former colonial administrations controlled by the descendants of immigrants who settled in the territory. Settler states often feature large-scale alienation of land from indigenous inhabitants as well as elaborately organized racial discrimination.

**sexenio** the six-year administration of Mexican presidents.

**shari’a** Islamic law derived mostly from the Qur’an and the examples set by the Prophet Muhammad.

**Shi’i/Shi’ism** a branch of Islam. It literally means “the followers or partisans of Ali.” The other branch is known as Sunni, or the followers of tradition.

**shock therapy** a variant of market reform that involves the state simultaneously imposing a wide range of radical economic changes, with the purpose of “shocking” the economy into a new mode of operation. Shock therapy can be contrasted with a more gradual approach to market reform.

**Sikhs** a minority religious community in India whose members practice Sikhism. Sikhs constitute less than 2 percent of the Indian population and 76 percent of the state of Punjab.

**siloviki** derived from the Russian word sil, meaning “force.” Russian politicians and government officials drawn from security and intelligence agencies (such as the Soviet KGB or its contemporary counterpart, the FSB), special forces, or the military, many of whom were recruited to important political posts under Vladimir Putin.

**single-member plurality district** an electoral system in which candidates run for a single seat from a specific geographic district. The winner is the person who receives the most votes, whether or not that is a majority. These systems, unlike systems of proportional representation, increase the likelihood that two national coalition parties will form.

**social class** a group whose members share common economic status determined largely by occupation, income, and wealth. Members of the same social class often share similar political attitudes.

**socialism** in a socialist regime, the state plays a leading role in organizing the economy, and most business firms are publicly owned. A socialist regime, unlike a communist party-state, may allow the private sector to play an important role in the economy and be committed to political pluralism. In Marxism-Leninism, socialism refers to an early stage in the development of communism. Socialist regimes can be organized in a democratic manner, in that those who control the state may be chosen according to democratic procedures. They may also be governed in an undemocratic manner when a single party, not chosen in free competitive elections, controls the state and society.

**socialist democracy** the term used by the Chinese Communist Party to describe the political system of the People’s Republic of China. Also called the people’s democratic dictatorship. The official view is that this type of system, under the leadership of the Communist Party, provides democracy for the overwhelming majority of people and suppresses (or exercises dictatorship over) only the enemies of the people. Socialist democracy is contrasted to bourgeois (or capitalist) democracy, which puts power in the hands of the rich and oppresses the poor.
social movements  large-scale grass-roots action that demands reforms of existing social practices and government policies. Social movements are less formally organized than interest groups. An example would be the civil rights movement in the United States that began in the 1960s.
social security  a national system of contributory and noncontributory benefits to provide assistance for the elderly, sick, disabled, unemployed, and others similarly in need of assistance. The specific coverage of social security, a key component of the welfare state, varies by country.
special relationship  refers to relations between the United States and Britain (the United Kingdom) and meant to convey not only the largely positive, mutually beneficial nature of the relationship, but also the common heritage and shared values of the two countries.
state  a unified, geographically defined political entity. The state comprises a country's most powerful political institutions, including the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government as well as the police and armed forces, which claim the right to make the laws and enforce them through the use of coercion, if necessary. See also civil society.
state capitalism  a strategy of economic development in which the state guides industrial, agricultural, and financial policy and aims to create the political conditions for its success. Unlike socialism or communism, the state does not own major parts of the economy; rather the state works in partnership with owners of private property to promote national economic growth.
state formation  the historical development of a state, often marked by major stages, key events, or turning points (critical junctures) that influence the contemporary character of the state.
statism  the doctrine that advocates firm state direction of the economy and society.
state-led economic development  the process of promoting economic development using governmental machinery.
Supreme Leader  head of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
sustainable development  an approach to promoting economic growth that seeks to minimize environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources. Advocates of sustainable development believe that policies implemented in the present must take into account the impact on the ability of future generations to meet their needs and live healthy lives.
technocrats  Career-minded bureaucrats who administer public policy according to a technical rather than a political rationale. In Mexico and Brazil, these are known as the técnicos.
theocracy  a state dominated by the clergy, who rule on the grounds that they are the only interpreters of God’s will and law.
totalitarianism  a political system in which the state attempts to exercise total domination of all aspects of public and private life, including the economy, culture, education, and social organizations, through an integrated system of ideological, economic, and political control. The term has been applied to both communist party-states and fascist regimes such as Nazi Germany.
township  South African usage refers to a segregated residential area reserved for Africans, during apartheid tightly controlled and constituted mainly by public housing.
township and village enterprises (TVEs)  nonagricultural businesses and factories owned and run by local governments and private entrepreneurs in China’s rural areas. TVEs operate largely according to market forces and outside the state plan.
transitional democracies  countries that have moved from an authoritarian government to a democratic one. Also referred to as newly established democracies.
typology  a method of classifying by using criteria that divide a group of cases into smaller numbers. For example, in this book, we use a typology of countries that distinguishes among established democracies, transitional democracies, and nondemocracies, or authoritarian regimes.
unitary state  in contrast to the federal systems of Mexico, India, Canada, or the United States, where power is shared between the central government and state or regional governments, in a unitary state (such as Britain or China) no powers are reserved constitutionally for subnational units of government.
untouchables  the lowest caste in India’s caste system, whose members are among the poorest and most disadvantaged Indians.
vanguard party  a political party that claims to operate in the “true” interests of the group or social class it purports to represent, even if this understanding doesn’t correspond to the expressed interests of the group itself. The Communist parties of the Soviet Union and China are examples of vanguard parties.
voortrekkers  pastoralist descendants of Dutch-speaking settlers in South Africa who moved northwards from the British controlled Cape in 1836 to establish independent
republics; later regarded as the founders of the Afrikaner nation.

welfare state not a form of state, but rather a set of public policies designed to provide for citizens’ needs through direct or indirect provisions of pensions, health care, unemployment insurance, and assistance to the poor.

Westminster model a form of democracy based on the supreme authority of Parliament and the accountability of its elected representatives; named after the Parliament building in London.

zamindars landlords who served as tax collectors in India under the British colonial government. The zamindari system was abolished after independence.
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