

What is Comparative Politics?

Comparative politics is a subfield of political science.

Three definitions of comparative politics:

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1. The study of political phenomena in every country *except the one in which the student resides*.
2. The study of political phenomena through the *comparative method*.
3. The study of political phenomena that are predominantly within country relationships.

FIGURE 1.1

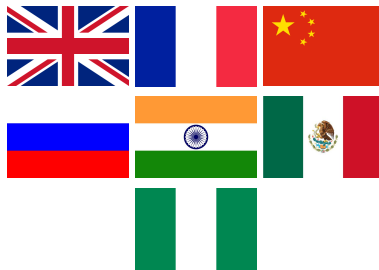
One View of Political Science



Traditional Approach

“It’s week 10, so it must be Mexico.”

Britain, France, China, Russia, India, Mexico, and Nigeria



Our Approach

- Problem oriented
- Strategic
- Scientific
- Methods

Causes and Consequences of Democracy



Who is he?

Causes and Consequences of Democracy



Mohamed Bouazizi,
3/29/84-1/4/11

Arab Spring

- Tunisia, click [▶ here](#)
- Egypt, click [▶ here](#)
- Egypt, click [▶ here. WARNING](#)



Spring of Nations 1848

- Protests challenging dynasties that had ruled for decades across Europe.
- Wave of euphoria that government was finally going to be put under the control of the people.



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- Wave of euphoria that government was finally going to be put under the control of the people.
- These revolts were followed by **reaction**.

Objective

Regime change and political reform occur in complex and context-dependent ways.

Understanding political change is difficult, but it is not impossible.

Objective

Introduce you to the body of knowledge about the sources of political change.

Provide you with a set of tools and comparative framework for understanding contemporary developments.