

**GOVT 122: Intro to Comparative Politics**  
**Midterm Exam Study Guide**

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NOTE: This is *not* an exhaustive list of material that will be covered on the exam. It is, rather, a general summary of the *kinds* of information that you should know, along with a few tips to help you focus. Use this guide in conjunction with the textbook and the course Web site.

**Leaders:** For each country, you should know the current leader, and a few of the top leaders from the 20th Century, especially those who are listed below. If the name was emphasized in lectures, or is covered in detail by the textbook, or was the subject of a video, you should know it. Know the leaders' party or ideology (right vs. left) and their main accomplishments.

Indira Gandhi  
Margaret Thatcher

Konrad Adenauer  
Francois Mitterrand

Charles De Gaulle  
Winston Churchill

**History:** You should be able to briefly describe key historical events (especially those listed below), state about when they occurred, and explain their significance to the country.

Glorious Revolution  
Meiji Restoration

French Revolution  
Fifth Republic

World War II / the Holocaust  
Franco-Prussian War

**Geography:** Know the location of countries, know where their capital cities are located, and be aware of key geographical features such as major rivers or mountain ranges. Also know where major mineral deposits (oil, coal, etc.) are located, and where industry is concentrated.

**Political parties:** For each country, you should know which party currently leads the government, what its ideological orientation is (right vs. left), and something about its policy agenda. You should also know the name of the leading opposition party.

**Political system:** For each country, you should know what form of government it has (e.g., parliamentary republic), whether it is unitary or federal in structure, and how well established it is. You should also know when the current regime was founded (i.e, when the current constitution went into effect), and who "really" runs the country behind the scenes.

**Political concepts, ideologies, movements:** Be able to define basic political terms such as those listed below. Describe how democracy is measured (the four criteria), and know the basic variables used to compare countries, such as number of parties, institutionalization, and culture.

Iron triangle  
Statism vs. Laissez-faire

Proportional representation  
Clientelism

Regime  
Pluralism

**Major political trends and patterns:** Explain the significance of major trends across time, such as the Industrial Revolution, globalization, democratization, as well as patterns among countries such as the level of economic development and the level of democracy. The latter part will require a deeper understanding of the material, and you should "practice" by making a chart of the five countries we have covered thus far, with one or two aspects shown for each one.