

# AP Comparative Government and Politics Summer Reading Assignment 2015

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to AP Comparative Government and Politics! By the time you finish this course, you will be well on your way to joining the small group of citizens who are very well informed about the history, economies, and political systems of these important countries: Great Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Iran, and Nigeria. Come with an open mind and be prepared to be challenged by the course. The summer assignment described below is intended to introduce you to the concepts that we will explore together as a class. Please feel free to contact me by email if you have questions about the course or assignment.

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1. Read Fareed Zakaria's *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad* and complete a double entry journal (attached) as you do so. Create entries for each of the four themes identified on the DE Journal and be sure to include page numbers. Complete the essay assignment as described below. These will both be due on the first day of class and will serve as the first grades of the course.
2. Start following the news as it relates to the six countries we will be studying: Great Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Iran, and Nigeria. Good sources include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Economist*. Complete one news article response sheet (attached) after reading a full length article on one of the countries. This will also be due and collected on the first day of class. AP Comparative

## Government and Politics Double Entry Journal: *The Future of Freedom*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PER \_\_\_\_\_

Students should copy two or three sentences or quotations that are related to the stated themes in the spaces below. What questions arise after reading these sentences? What does this selection mean? What do you understand from this selection? How do you feel about this selection? What did this reading remind you of?

Theme: ILLIBERAL DEMOCRACY p.

Theme: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEMOCRATIZATION p.

Theme: DEMOCRACY AS OPPOSED TO LIBERTY p.

Theme: THE ISLAMIC EXCEPTION p.

NEW WORDS (include page number): List and define

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

### **AP Comparative Government and Politics Summer Reading Assignment Essay Response**

After reading *The Future of Freedom* and completing the double entry journal, write a complete essay, no more than 3 pages typed, in response to one of the following questions. Be sure to not only explain Zakaria's arguments, but also to evaluate his reasoning. In your analysis of the author's reasoning, include specific examples that support your argument.

1. According to Zakaria, what is the relationship between economic growth and democratization? Are you persuaded by his explanation? Explain.

2. How does Zakaria differentiate between "democracy" and "liberty"? Do you find his distinction useful? Explain.

3. What does Zakaria mean by "illiberal democracy"? Why does he think that the number of governments that can be characterized as illiberal democracies is increasing? Do you agree with this analysis? Explain.

4. Why did liberal democracies flourish in North America and Europe more so than in other regions of the world? Do you agree with Zakaria's reasoning? Explain. AP COMPARATIVE

### **GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS NEWS ARTICLE RESPONSE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the main idea or thesis of the article?
2. List three details or facts that support the main idea.
3. List and define three new words you read in the article.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

4. Write two questions you have about the article. What is something you did not understand or would like to know more about? What question would help us to analyze the article, understand it more thoroughly, or recognize its broader implications?

5. What prior knowledge did you have about this topic and how did the article change your perspective about it?