

2008 A.P. COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT SUMMER ASSIGNMENT (This is not for AP GEM or AP Government)

Welcome to Mr. Harley's A.P. Comparative Government class! (By doing this assignment over the summer, we will be able to get a head-start on the class, which will enable us to cover the entire AP content by the end of the first semester). The class covers world governments in general and then provides an in-depth look at the governments of Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Iran and Nigeria.

You will **NOT** need the comparative government textbook to complete this summer assignment. (Which is a good thing because the book isn't at the school yet). This assignment is all Internet-based.

Part 1. Globalization

Read the information about globalization at:

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/2000/culture/global/frame1.html>

Answer the following questions in well-written paragraphs, using full sentences:

1. What is globalization?
2. What impact has globalization had on your life?
3. How is "Sesame Street" an example of globalization?
4. How has McDonald's adapted to globalization?
5. In your opinion, is globalization good or bad? Why?

Part 2. Democratization

In 1900, there were no countries, including the USA, that were complete constitutional democracies, where every adult citizen was eligible to vote. Today, over 150 countries have free elections where just about every citizen can vote. A "wave" of democratization has taken over the world. However it's not all good news. While many of these 150+ countries allow freedom of voting, personal freedoms and liberties, such as freedom of speech, are often not well protected by the government.

1. Look up **democratization** on the Internet. What are some reasons why so many countries in the world have moved towards more democracy and less towards authoritarian-style governments?

2. Read the Internet article about Russia: www.heritage.org/Research/RussiaandEurasia/wm1731.cfm

Answer the following questions:

1. What powers will Putin likely hold as prime minister of Russia?
2. What is President Dmitry Medvedev's background?
3. What are some hopeful clues that Medvedev, if given the chance by Putin, can put Russia back on track towards democratization?
4. Who are the *siloviki*?
5. What is Gazprom?
6. Why are relations between Russia and the U.S.A. at an all-time low?

4. Research the 2007 election in Nigeria. What happened in this election? What internal factors made it so difficult for Nigeria to hold a legitimate election?

This assignment is due by the first day of the class in September. Feel free to email me at harleyl@pvpusd.k12.ca.us if you have any questions.