COMPARATIVE POLITICS READING LIST
(with great thanks to Herbert Kitschelt)
From November 2009

Much of the below refers to the first set of books listed here:
James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds. 2003. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
Introductory

Tier I readings:


Tier II readings:


PART I: BASIC OBJECTS OF COMPARATIVE RESEARCH
(“COMPARATIVE STATICS”)

1.1. STATES AND REGIMES

Tier I readings:


Tier II readings:
1.2. DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

**Tier I readings:**


**Tier II readings:**


**Data Sets:**

Comparative Political Data Set, 1960-2004. (Klaus Armingeon)
http://www.ipw.unibe.ch/content/team/klaus_armingeon/comparative_political_data_sets/index_ger.html


Lijphart and Grofman Data Set on Democratic Institutions, ftp://ftp.uci.edu/pub/POLSCI252D/gray1.xls


1.3. POLITICAL CULTURE AND CIVILIZATIONS

**Tier I readings:**


**Tier II readings:**

esp.chapters 1-3.


**Tier IIa readings: More on Religion and Politics**


Debate about Stepan/Robertson 2003, *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 15 (October 2004) No. 4: 126-32 (Burhan Ghalioun), 133-39 (Sanford Lakoff) and 140-46 (Stepan and Robertson);

**Data Sets:**

World Values Study: [http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org](http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)

International Social Survey Programme: [www.issp.org](http://www.issp.org)

Pew Global Attitudes Survey: peoplepress.org/pgap

Comparative Study of Electoral Systems: [www.cses.org](http://www.cses.org)

Latinobarometro: [www.latinobarometro.org](http://www.latinobarometro.org)

Afrobarometer: [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

Eurobarometer: [www.europeanvalues.nl](http://www.europeanvalues.nl)

Asian Barometer: [www.avatoli.ioc.utokyo.ac.jp/~asiabarometer](http://www.avatoli.ioc.utokyo.ac.jp/~asiabarometer)

East Asia Barometer: [www.eacsurvey.law.ntu.edu.tw](http://www.eacsurvey.law.ntu.edu.tw)

**1.4. ETHNIC IDENTITY, COLLECTIVE ACTION, AND VIOLENCE**
Tier I readings:


Tier II readings:


especially pp. 141-84, 229-36 and 258-62 (The Logic of Secessions and Irredentas) and chapter 14 (Lijphart critique: 563-600)


Brendan O'Leary, "On the Nature of Nationalism. An Appraisal of Ernest Gellner's Writings on

**Data Sets:**

A. Ethnocultural Divisions and Violence:

for an introduction of and a discussion of a variety of ethnocultural datasets, see:


Henry Hale, large ethnolociations dataset [http://behale5.googlepages.com/foundationsofethnicpolitics](http://behale5.googlepages.com/foundationsofethnicpolitics)
Philipp Roeder, Ethnolinguistic Fractionalization (ELF) 1961 and 1985 [http://weber.ucsd.edu/~7Eroeder/data.htm](http://weber.ucsd.edu/~7Eroeder/data.htm)

B. Political Violence more generally:

Jeremy Weinstein, database on civil war violence
Latin America Political Protest Project: [http://faculty.mswu.edu/politicalscience/steve.garrison/lappdata/lapp.asp](http://faculty.mswu.edu/politicalscience/steve.garrison/lappdata/lapp.asp)
The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), located at [http://www.thearda.com](http://www.thearda.com)
Protest and Repression Data (Ron Francisco): [http://lark.cc.ku.edu/~ranfran/data/index](http://lark.cc.ku.edu/~ranfran/data/index)
Poe and Tate Data on Political Repression and Human Rights, [http://www.psci.unt.edu/ihrsc/poetate.htm](http://www.psci.unt.edu/ihrsc/poetate.htm)
PRIO/Uppsala Conflict Armed Conflict Dataset (SyllabusCompCore325.0012008.doc)
Restrepo, Jorge, Michael Spagat, and Juan Vargas. "The Dynamics of the Colombian Civil Conflict: A New Dataset." ([http://personal.rhul.ac.uk/~pon126/Documents/Docs/Database%20civil%20war.pdf](http://personal.rhul.ac.uk/~pon126/Documents/Docs/Database%20civil%20war.pdf)) (J.Restrepo@rhul.ac.uk)

### 1.5. MODES OF POLITICAL MOBILIZATION
**Tier I readings:**


**Tier II readings:**


Doug McAdam, John D. McCarthy, Mayer N. Zald, *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements. Political Opportunities, Mobilizing Structures, and Cultural Framings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

**Data Sets:** see 1.4. and 2.2.

**1.6. META-THEORETICAL REFLECTION: INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONALISM(S)**

**Tier I readings:**

example electoral system choice and consequences:


Tier II readings:


*Kathleen Thelen, How Institutions Evolve. The Political Economy of Skills in Germany, Britain, the United States, and Japan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004,


PART II: POLITICAL DYNAMICS: HOW POLITICS CHANGES AND ACHIEVES OUTCOMES

2.1. POLITICAL REGIME CHANGE: DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY, AND STRATEGIC POLITICAL ACTION AS CAUSAL ACCOUNTS

Tier I readings:

A. Development


B. Inequality


C. Elite Strategies and/or Mass Collective Action


Jeff Goodwin. 2001. *No Other Way Out*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 3-64).


North/Wallis/Weingast. 2009. *Violence and Social Orders*. chapters 5-7 (pp. 148-271)


critique: Kitschelt, "Comparative Historical Research and Rational Choice Theory. The Case of
Transitions to Democracy. A Review Essay on Adam Przeworski's Democracy and the Market,
*Theory and Society*, Vol. 22 (July 1993), No. 4: 413-27

D. Regime Change through Contagion or Diffusion (no first tier readings)

**Tier II readings:**

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson and Pierre Yared, *Income and Democracy?* MIT.


*Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyen Huber Stephens, and John Stephens, Capitalist Development and Democracy.
*Theda Skocpol, States and Revolutions. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979.

Tier IIa: Debate about Post-Communist Regime Change


Tier IIb: Debate about the Iranian Revolution: Structure and/or Culture?


Datasets on Political Regime Change:

Data Set on Democracy and Development. (Adam Przeworski, Michael Alvarez, Jose Cheibub, and Fernando Limongi,) http://www.ssc.upenn.edu/~cheibub/data/Default.htm.
Freedom House ratings of Political Rights and Civil Liberties: http://www.freedomhouse.org
BLM Democracy Scale for Central America: 1900-1999, by Kirk Bowman, Fabrice Lehoucq, and James Mahoney: http://blmdemocracy.gatech.edu

2.2. DEMOCRATIC COMPETITION AND REPRESENTATION

Tier I readings: (read 2.2.1. and any one of the other three area specific subsections 2.2.x thereafter)

2.2.1. General Readings


2.2.2. Advanced (Post)Industrial Democracies (alternative to 2.2.3. or 2.2.4.)


### 2.2.3. Party Competition in Latin America (alternative to 2.2.2. or 2.2.4.)


### 2.2.4. Party Competition in Post-Communist Eastern Europe (alternative to 2.2.1. or 2.2.2.)


### Tier II readings:


Peter Mair, "What is Different about Post-Communist Party Systems?" chapter 8 in Mair, *Party System Change*, pp. 175-98.


**Data Sets:**

**A. Parties and Party Strategies**


Benoit-Laver party policy positions in 47 countries [http://www.politics.tcd.ie/ppmd](http://www.politics.tcd.ie/ppmd)


Kitschelt, Democratic Linkage and Accountability Project (dataset not yet published)

**B. Public Opinion and Political Behavior**

regional and global “barometers” (see 1.3.)

World Values Study [www.world-valuesurvey.org](http://www.world-valuesurvey.org)
C. Election Outcomes

Dawn Brancati, Constituency Level Election Results: [http://www.cle.wustl.edu/](http://www.cle.wustl.edu/).


International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), turnout [http://www.idea.int/](http://www.idea.int/).

Lijphart’s Election Archive (UCSD)

Adam Karr’s Election Archive

Richard Kimber’s Election and Electoral Systems Around the World (University of Keele)

Matthew Golder’s Electoral Systems Data Archive

**2.3. POLITICAL ECONOMY I: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**Tier I readings:**


John Gerring, Philip Bond, William T. Barndt and Carola Moreno, “Democracy and Economic Growth:


**Ia: Readings on Postcommunist Economic Reform (optional, but could be substantive essay focus):**


**Ib: Readings on Latin American Economic Reform (optional, but could be substantive essay focus):**


**Tier II readings:**


**Data Sets:**

World Bank, World Development Indicators (online via Perkins Library).

2.4. POLITICAL ECONOMY II: ADVANCED CAPITALIST ECONOMIES AT THE WORLD INNOVATION FRONTIER

Tier I readings:


Tier Ia readings obligatory for field essay authors:


Tier II readings:


Data Sets:

www.shelley.polisci.ucla.edu/data/  
Comparative Welfare Entitlements Dataset. (Lyle Scruggs)  
http://sp.uconn.edu/%7Escruggs/wp.htm  
Huber, Ragin, and Stevens, Comparative Welfare States Data Set.  
Electoral Rules and Government Spending in Parliamentary Democracies by Torsten Persson, Gerard Roland and Guido Tabellini,  
http://www.igier.uni-bocconi.it  
Economic Effects of Constitutions by Torsten Persson and Guido Tabellini,  
Do Constitutions Cause Large Governments? Quasi-Experimental Evidence by Torsten Persson and Guido Tabellini,  
http://www.igier.uni-bocconi.it/whos.php  
Electoral Rules and Corruption by Torsten Persson, Guido Tabellini and Francesco Trebbi  
Unemployment, Growth and Taxation in Industrial Countries, http://www.igier.uni-bocconi.it/whos.php  
http://www.igier.uni-bocconi.it/whos.php.

PART III: COMPARATIVE DESIGN AND INference

3.1. CONCEPTS, DESCRIPTIVE AND CAUSAL INFERENCE

Tier I readings:

King, Keohane, and Verba, Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 34-114).


James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. chapters by Pierson (177-207), Mahoney (337-72), and Hall (373-404).


Tier II readings:

(contributions by Collier, Bennett/George, Locke/Thelen, Peterson/Bowen, Ragin, Stephens, and Voss/Lublin).  


### 3.2. COMPARATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN

**Tier I readings:**

King, Keohane, and Verba (1994), chapters 4-6 (pp. 115-230).


Barbara Geddes, Paradigms and Sand Castles. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003. read remaining chapters 1 and 4 and review chapters 2 and 3 from previous sessions (5 is irrelevant for the methodology part).


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**Tier II readings**


1.1. POLITICAL REGIMES


1.2. DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

1.3. POLITICAL CULTURE AND CIVILIZATIONS


1.4. ETHNIC IDENTITY, COLLECTIVE ACTION, AND VIOLENCE


1.5. MODES OF COLLECTIVE POLITICAL MOBILIZATION

1.6. META-THEORETICAL REFLECTION: INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONALISM(S)


2.1.a. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INEQUALITY, AND REGIME CHANGE

Frances Hagopian, *Traditional Politics and Regime Change in Brazil*. 1996.
2.1.b. REGIME TRANSITIONS: STRATEGIC INTERACTION AMONG POLITICAL CONTENDERS


Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds., The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes (Baltimore, 1978).


Arturo Valenzuela, The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1978).


Further Literature: Why did Communism Break Down?

Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State* (Cambridge, 1999)

2.2. DEMOCRATIC COMPETITION AND REPRESENTATION

2.3. POLITICAL ECONOMY I: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES


2.4. POLITICAL ECONOMY II: ADVANCED CAPITALIST ECONOMIES AT THE INNOVATION FRONTIER


**PART III: COMPARATIVE DESIGN AND INFECTION**

### 3.1. CONCEPTS, DESCRIPTIVE AND CAUSAL INFECTION


### 3.2. COMPARATIVE DESIGN


