

ICP, French Political and Economic History (sections 1, 2, and 5)

Section 1

- Louis XIV (the “sun king”, ruled from 1643-1715 at the height of France’s cultural and military power) and the creation of the **ancient régime**: absolutist state, efficient bureaucracy, feudal system with heavy taxation, dominant presence of Catholic Church
- **French Revolution** (1789) and the **1st Republic** (1792)
 - What were the national and international effects of the revolution? The good? The bad?
 - What are “the two quite opposite impacts of the Revolution” that de Tocqueville notes?
 - Legacy of **Napoleon Bonaparte** and the revolution: Napoleonic Code of Law, centralization of administrative system, hostility towards religion, disdain for pragmatism
- 19th century oscillation between monarchy and democracy (restoration, 2nd and 3rd republics)
- Why would “a large peasantry act as a brake on industrialization”? What other reasons do the authors give for France’s relatively slow pace of economic development?
- French colonialism: “civilizing mission”, resource extraction, markets for French exports
- **Vichy** France under Marshall Pétain: armistice with Hitler (end of 3rd republic, in 1940)
- 4th Republic established in 1946: parliamentarism with proportional representation and a very weak executive. Why would the French citizens reject Charles De Gaulle’s call for a stronger executive in 1946?
- What distinguishes the 4th Republic from De Gaulle’s **5th Republic** (1958-present)?
- The socialist candidate Francois **Mitterand** elected in 1981, representing the first shift from conservative power since 1958 (the peaceful transition of power is an important test of a democracy)
- Jean-Marie **Le Pen** and the 2002 election
 - Video ‘debate’ with Sarkozy: Le Pen question’s the policy of “inclusive assimilationism”
- To what extent do you think the French are right to (disdainfully) equate globalization with Americanization?
- France since 2007: **Nicolas Sarkozy**
- Fundamental problem in modern France: the **statist** tradition that created the famous TGV, etc., is incompatible with economic globalization, but the French populace takes to the streets—literally—whenever any attempts to reform are threatened.

Section 2

- What is **dirigisme**? “National champions”?
- Economic governance since 1983 (after Mitterand’s ‘about face’): neoliberal modernization: privatization, deregulation, and liberalization
- What are the public sector workers always striking for? To maintain France’s high quality of life provided by cradle-to-grave social services (see p. 119)
- Environmental policy, inequality of ethnic minorities, and the impacts of EU membership

Section 5

- French race riots in 2005 and again in 2007 (see video)
- The tradition of taking to the streets to protest public sector reform
- **José Bové**, a hero of French farmers and anti-globalization
- What is “French exceptionalism”?

Arend Lijphart, “Majoritarian Versus Consensual Democracy”, pp. 175-178

- Why does Lijphart argue that “democratizing and newly democratic countries need consensus democracy even more than the stable and mature democracies”?
- Three kinds of majority
 - Qualified majority (often 2/3rds)
 - Simple/absolute majority (50.01%)
 - Relative majority, or plurality
- Formal versus informal restraints on majority rule (“any limit the majority imposes on itself can be removed by it”)
- What does it mean to say that “nothing clarifies the total sway of majorities more than their ability to alter and adjust the standard of legitimacy”?
- The 9 characteristics of consensual democracy: (1) broad coalition cabinets, (2) balanced power relationship between cabinet and legislature, (3) bicameral legislature, (4) federal/decentralized rather than unitary structure, (5) a “rigid” constitution, (6) judicial review, (7) multiparty system, (8) multidimensionality of multiparty system, (9) elections by PR rather than plurality

Videos to watch on France:

- Nicholas Sarkozy versus Jean-Marie Le Pen on what it takes to be 'French': <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoaX0onCboo>
- Le Pen at the European Parliament, on anti-European and anti-immigrant views: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6m6ZxpDkRM>
- Sarkozy/Royal Presidential debate clip (dubbed in English): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKIaSGw-47E>
- Charles de Gaulle at the Founding of the 5th Republic (1958): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOasGU0BOV0&feature=PlayList&p=D516FB8CA26A6C72&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=23
- On May 1968:
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUJZgkhSCq8>
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JowT2ad00YI>
- On the 2007 race riots: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fl4lNVTuRjw>