

Second Essay Assignment: Government Comparison

For our second essay assignment, please choose the governments of two different states to compare in detail. Try to narrow your focus down to just 1 or 2 criteria of comparison. For example, one could compare military spending, incarceration rates, election results, handling of popular protests, economic policies – your criteria must relate with specific State policies. Make sure to select criteria that are directly comparable between your two nations. Your essay should draw out specific elements around each nation's policy, and back those claims up with strong sources. Some comparative criteria that you might keep in mind:

- How long has a given state had a certain policy? How/when did it come to be?
- What is the justification given for a certain policy? Do justifications differ?
- If rates are radically different, why? (minor differences are usually less significant)
- Who has power to effect the policy in question? Who is excluded from power?
- What are the measurable effects of a certain policy? Unmeasurable effects?
- What else differs in the relevant political contexts between the two nations?

You should focus in particular on the specifics of where the two states most radically differ: why would one state spend billions on something another state spends nothing on? Why would one state make a central policy of a state agency that another state does not even have? Analyzing just one or two key differences between nations in detail will likely provide you with plenty of material to cover.

First, develop a clear understanding of *what* the difference between the two states is. Then, more significantly, work to analyze the various reasons *why* these nations differ as they do. Your entire essay should be unified around a consistent point that answers these questions.

Please submit the final copy of your essay via Blackboard upload, in the 'Assignments' section. Alternatively, a hard copy can be turned in during class. Make sure that your document is edited and that it **includes all relevant citations**. Use a consistent citation style (MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.).

Format: **6 pages (1,500 words)**, double spaced, 12pt. Standard font, 1" margins; everything other than '.pages' (Mac) files are acceptable.

Due date: Thursday, November 14th.