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Comparative Government

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Comparative Government

Part One

Question 1

Through the National People's Congress (NPC), the Chinese government has explored the greatest weakness in Asian institutions to create highly integrative and practical regional institutions through which it operates. After World War II, China had to confront the pangs of civil war, which had commenced in the 1920s but took a break as the country struggled with foreign occupants from Japan. The Chinese Communist Party emerged victorious after a ferocious struggle with the nationalists who retreated at the end of 1949, and Mao Zang formed a communist government. All extraterritoriality counting all colonial powers were disbanded as all westerners were ejected out of China, and the country embarked on the task of rebuilding its institutions throughout the 1950s (Hsü & Kachru, 1975). For China to fully arrive at its current government institutions, it began with social transformations, domestic reforms, economic changes, and more elusive political transformations.

Question 2

All the power in People's Republic of China (PRC) is centered around a supreme leader while National People's Congress makes the country's laws. For instance, the dominant leader's concentration of power, currently Xi Jinping, qualifies him to head the four most influential state and political offices. The latter offices include assuming the People's Republic of China's presidential role, acting as the Central Committee and Communist Party general secretary, and Chairing the Central Military Commission. Correspondingly, only NPC and affiliated Standing Committees represent the PRC's top parliament responsible for making laws. In a nutshell, any appellation that may articulate a given provision is a law; it must have been enacted by the

Standing Committee of NPC or the NPC itself. In summing, PRC's constitution is the supreme law in China.

Question 3

The Chinese system has more disadvantages than advantages. On the vantage side, the country's one-party system enables China to formulate a long-standing national development plan and safeguard its policies stabilization without facing changes from parties with varied ideologies and standpoints. Also, the Chinese system avails profound efficacy and immediate effective reaction to developing problems and opportunities. For instance, when it needs to respond to abrupt and calamitous fates, as it recently dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because the country does not require any approval process compared to the West (Daily, 2010). On the other hand, the Chinese system presents a conducive environment for power personalization, a feeble judiciary system, corruption, and deliberate information manipulation to protect the system and its trailblazers. Failure to develop sovereign institutions beyond those the government requires to control China may lead to a void in the country if the one-party loses control. Nonetheless, the Chinese system may seem to entail more disadvantages than benefits only if one believes in the power of institutions to spearhead a free economy as well as civil society.

Question 4

From a critical analysis point of view, the future of various aspects of China is not apparent. Although PRC refers to itself as a democracy and the Communist Party maintains that the rights of the Chinese are copiously protected, one cannot go far with the argument that the country will embrace democracy because ever since CCP came to power China has never been a democracy (Gilley, 2004). Likewise, the wide acclaim of China's emerging superpower status by

the prolific press has equally seen scholars and experts acknowledge that China shall become the only world superpower in the half of this century (Landry, 2013). In summing, although it will be worthwhile for China to embrace democracy, the future of this country to become the sole global military, the geopolitical and economic superpower is luminous.

Part Two

Question 1

In April 1979, through a national referendum, Iran saw the current set of government institutions established from a dictatorial regime. After the 1979 revolution, also known as the Islamic Revolution, the monarchy government by Shah had suppressed opposition, and limited political freedoms was toppled off through populism by Ayatollah Khomeini (Alamdari, 2005). Islamic fundamentalism rose to power, returning many conventional customs such as the enforcement of social values. Westernization in Iran came to an end post-revolution. The country was modernized with the nullification of the family protection act and the enforcement of Islamic conduct besides the code of dressing. The new conservative government suppressed influence from Western culture using clerics and militias. The loyal cleric organizations enforced Islamic laws with great violence and brutality than Shah's regime. In the end, all government institutions in Iran were set up on ² two non-class power structures of populism and clientelism.

Question 2

Power in Iran revolves around one Supreme Leader with a unicameral legislature. At the top of Iran's power structure seats the Supreme Leader, who exercises political and ideological control of the government system subjugated by clerics. The latter persons oversee every chief function of the state (Buchta, 2000). The country's constitution grants the Supreme Leader the responsibility to delineate and supervise the overall policies of Islamic Republic of Iran. He is

¹equally the commander in chief of the armed forces and appoints half of the parliament oversight body members – Council of Guardians. Similarly, approval of the budget, ratification of international treaties, and the making of laws are done by the unicameral parliament of Iran. In the Islamic Republic, the Supreme Leader is the most influential political authority.

Question 3

An evaluation of the Islamic Republic system's advantages and disadvantages may not consider the novel government changes the state may embrace today, but revolves around the historic implementation of Islamic laws in Iran (Bashiriyeh, 2011). Conceivably, it is forthright that as long as Islamic rules apply to Iran's system, the disadvantages of this system will always outweigh its advantages. Thus, one benefit of the Iranian system is that Iran's government will always provide plentiful opportunities to ardent Shia Muslims. On the flipside, Iranians have no power to decide how their country ought to be governed. Also, the system does not offer freedom of expression or speech. It does not provide room for supporting divergent political beliefs other than politics based on Islam. Although an Islamic state may benefit the majority in Iran, it is inherently discriminatory.

Question 4

A change in the Iranian regime is next to impossible. Although the United States may have all the reasons to seek a regime change in Iran, it is held aloof by the illusionary memories of the Iraq war where it was caught up in its quagmire (Milani, 2018). Since Iran's government is a revolutionary movement, it will never welcome the US on the pretense that the latter nation is seeking theocrats of Iran to transform their behavior and not a regime change. Also, Iran's stability is the elephant in the room youngsters in Iran might never get around. The current revolution has no objective ideology, and the reform movement has not fulfilled the majority's

demand. Hence, for the lack of an organizational factor to bond the people's diverse motivations, major cities of the country such as Tehran will continue to face spontaneous rioting and uncivilized unrests in the future.

Part Three

Question 1

Brazil has experienced various forms of government since independence in 1822. First, the country assumed a monarchical system of government before it became a republic in 1889. The overthrow of the monarchy saw Brazil's economy controlled by authoritarian state in 1937 and social welfare revolution and reform of laws regulating the industry began. Eventually, the country had to endure a military coup in 1964 before general Ernesto Geisel became the president, and changes that allowed limited elections and political activity were introduced. In 1988, the new constitution reduced the president's powers before it was changed to allow presidential re-run in 1997. Today, Brazil is under a federal government system that exercises its power through executive, judiciary, and legislature as the three government arms. In a nutshell, the current government institutions of Brazil were established after a series of alterations.

Question 2

According to Brazil's federal constitution, powers are separated based on executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. The country's laws are created at three levels: municipal, state, and federal (Montgomery & Calderano, 2016). To prevent abuse of power and allow each power to act as a watchdog for each other, checks and balances are put in place. For example, any presidential act that surpasses his powers can be suspended by Congress. No alternative legal provision can contradict the federal constitution since it is the highest law. Also, despite each state having its constitution, state constitutions cannot be contradicted by other

municipal or state laws. The two groups of laws are ordinary and supplementary laws. The former regulates other issues, while the latter is reserved for specific subject issues articulated by the federal constitution.

Question 3

Subsequently, the federated system in Brazil has pros and cons. First, it allows states' independence, which facilitates variation in policies to meet the desires of various states. Secondly, the Brazilian system increases citizen's access as well as maximum involvement in the government. The states act as experimentation labs for democracy; thus, the system promotes innovation. Likewise, the separation of powers among the legislature, executive, and judiciary helps protect individuals' freedoms and liberties. On the contrary, the Brazilian system's disadvantage is that all government levels can identify loopholes in the Federal Constitution. Also, it leads to a lack of uniformity between the laws of a state. Lastly, the legislation process can be slowed down when conflicts arise between state and federal governments. Although the Brazilian system possesses some drawbacks, it is crucial to protect individuals' liberties and freedoms.

Question 4

The future of Brazil's trade status is bright. Through various market reforms, Brazil will position itself as a regional economic powerhouse. What this country may require now is to invest in its innovation to realize the latter. For instance, by February this year, the country was on its way to approve a free-market telecommunications reform. Its approval shall see Brazil unquestionably open its market to additional competition. In turn, the country shall attract enormous amounts of foreign direct investment, becoming South America's economic powerhouse (Montanari, 2020). With the massive reforms initiated by the government of

Bolsonario, Brazil's economy is probable to be set on a more fiscal sustainable track. For example, he looked forward to introducing the pension reform, which is the climax of any political profession. When the necessary party counting Congress, the president, or regulators, shall follow through with Brazil's free-market reforms, this country's future trade status shall be tremendously transformed.

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