

AP Comparative Government and Politics Summer Reading Assignment

Overview: Next year we examine the institutional structure, civil society, political and economic changes, and public policy in each of the following six country case studies: United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. Since many students have never had the opportunity to formally study these countries, the goal over the summer will be to become a little more familiar with a few of the six case study countries by following them in the news.

Assignment: Please read at least 6 news articles for **two** of the countries listed above (United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran). You will have a total of at least 12 articles at the end of the project (as always, you can read more if you would like!). The articles should be published between the months of January and August 2019. Articles should come from sources such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *NPR*, *BBC*, *The Atlantic*, and *Foreign Affairs*. Articles can be on elections, international relations, economic developments, social movements, new government policy, domestic terrorism, etc.

- **Organization:** Please create a Bibliography for each country. Therefore, you should have two bibliographies to turn in when we return to school in September. Each bibliography should have at least six sources.

- **Writing:** For each country, please write a summary of the key developments in that country based on the articles that you have read. Be sure to include key names of people, organizations, policies, and events (leaders involved, political parties, active special interest groups, etc.) in order to paint a clear picture. The writing piece should be in **Times New Roman, size 12 font, double spaced, and should be no longer than one page**. **Because you are looking to write a synopsis of developments in the country, it may make sense to track one event in each country. For example, Nigeria had a presidential election on February 23, 2019. The event did not go as smoothly as the country had hoped. Reading about what happened and the aftermath might be a great way to study Nigeria. In Mexico, the new US tariffs may have an impact on their economy. If you are going to study this, please make sure that you study it from a Mexico perspective! There are also ongoing events that you could follow. For example, in the United Kingdom, you may choose to follow the ongoing developments in the Brexit deal and/or the resignation of Theresa May. In China, you could study the treatment of the Uighur people by the Chinese government or the state censorship of the people. In Russia you could read about Putin's leadership or their weakening economy. **Ultimately, your goal should be to become a bit more familiar with two of the countries we will study next year. Therefore, all 1-page summaries should focus on the countries (not the US).

Enjoy! I look forward to discussing these articles in September! ☺

