

AP Comparative Government Summer Assignment

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Part One: Complete a Current Event Summary for an event that occurred recently in one of the countries we will be studying. The countries are the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, Nigeria, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and China. The current event should cover a major political development in that country, or that country's involvement on the world stage. You should not simply find an event that occurred in a given country, but how it impacts that country's political environment or foreign policy. American newspapers often feature an American perspective which is fine, but if the article is about the United States it should involve the United State *vis-à-vis one* of the countries studied. This should be relatively easy to do for Russia, China, or Mexico but perhaps more difficult for other countries. Your article should come from a reputable **PRINT** (avoid CNN, Fox, and MSNBC for this assignment) news source such as the *NYTimes*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *the Economist*. Some of these websites charge for more than a few articles, so if you do not have access to them you can find free articles on *Politico*, the *BBC*, *USAToday* and the British newspaper *the Guardian*. Periodicals such as the *Atlantic*, *the New Yorker*, and *the New Republic* often have in-depth articles. You can also find English versions of the French newspaper, *Le Monde*, and the German *Der Spiegel*, online. A word of caution about news sources from less than democratic regimes, such as Russia or China, often these new sources are not reliable and serve as state propaganda.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Source: _____ attach article

Article Title: _____

Article date: _____

Who was involved? (Identify the people, groups, or organizations)

Where did this event happen? (U.K., Russia, Iran, Nigeria, Mexico, China)

When did this event happen? (Date, month, time frame, and/or year)

What happened? (Include sequence of events in complete sentences)

Why is this event relevant? (Why did the author write the article now?)

How does this event explain the country's internal politics?

How does this event explain the country's actions on the world stage?

Part 2: Identify the following terms and concepts using **index cards** (not a quizlet). Please make sure you not only define the terms but have examples of the concepts on the backs of each card. There will be a vocabulary quiz on these terms the second week of school.

Sovereignty

Legitimacy

Authority

Power

Communist Checks and Balances

Public Policy Constitution

Federalism

Regime

Democratization Judicial Review

State

Globalization

Separation of Powers

Totalitarianism

Government Two –party system

Politics

Imperialism

Unitary State

Political Party

Nation

Government

*It will not hurt you to start watching the news and reading articles and editorials from: Foreign Affairs, The Economist, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Reports, The New York Times, and our Local Newspapers.

Part 3: using either the BBC website or the CIA world Fact Book complete the following chart.

	United States	United Kingdom	Russia	China	Nigeria	Iran	Mexico
Leader							
Type of Government							
Area (Sq km)							

Population								
Life expectancy								
Natural resources								
Major Religions								
Languages Spoken								
Ethnic Groups								
Capital City								
GDP								