



AP[®] Comparative Government & Politics 2003 Sample Student Responses

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1) The party system in India is rather complex. Although it used to be mainly a single party state (the single party being the ^{Indian} National Congress), fragmentation due to opposition that was created during ^{India's} Gandhian administration has created a multiparty, coalition party system. Most parties are regional and have regional or ethnic ideologies. The BJP, the party that is ^{currently} in power in India, for instance has its roots in Hindu Fundamentalism. Party loyalty in the Lok Sabha (lower house) is not as high as in countries such as Great Britain.

The first-past-the-post electoral procedure is one procedure that contributed to the coalition party system in India. In a first-past-the-post system, ~~the winner of the~~ the winner of the elections, that is, the majority party in parliament, takes control of the country. As a result, there is ~~more~~ a higher need for parties to gain as much support as possible so that they can have any influence at all in ~~the~~ decisions made by the government. Many parties, such as the BJP have become "catch-all" parties, ~~showing~~ ^{showing} less support for specific ideologies. The BJP, although being ^{Hindu} fundamentalist, have ~~not attempt~~ made attempts to keep themselves from alienating other religions. In order to rally as much support as possible, they form alliances with one another, creating coalitions. This is how the ~~the~~ first-past-the-post system has contributed to coalition governments.

2) The ethnic diversity is another factor that contributes to the multi-party system. India is one of the most diverse countries in the world, with several different linguistic, ethnic, and religious groups scattered across the country. This has made many parties to be regional. It has also made parties such as the BJP be more apting of these different ethnic groups to gain support. It is also a cause of the fragmentation that we see in India - parties being

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split along ethnic grounds.

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There are many different political parties in Nigeria, almost all of which are extremely enthusiastic over their causes. The multiparty system consists of parties for Nigerian democracy as well as parties based on ethnic divisions, of which there are many. Their party system has been ~~very~~ everchanging because under the military dictatorships that Nigeria has had, no political participation is allowed, so in brief periods of democracy many parties crop up and crusade wildly for their positions.

The electoral procedure has contributed to the near-constant changing from 1 party to multiparty systems because the procedure is so flawed that it offers no sort of political stability. In periods of democracy, ~~the~~ elections are corrupt and usually contested until the military steps in and takes control, and in periods of military dictatorship there is no electoral procedure. When elections are held, the local polling places are not well supervised and there is frequent vote fixing, fabrication of ballots, and other unfair practices. ~~It~~ ^{with} such an unstable electoral system, it is not surprising that the country has many ~~parties~~ disorganized parties as opposed to just a few efficient ones.

Ethnic divisions also contribute to the multiparty system in Nigeria. Historically, the country has been plagued by ethnic conflict, and these divisions create groups that frequently share a political vision, even if the vision is only to keep their group in

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power, while tribal leaders no longer play official government roles, they do act as advisors for many political groups, and this enhances these divisions. With many different tribes and ethnic groups, it is easy to see why Nigeria would have many political parties.

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~~THU~~

India is a multiparty system with four major parties: (Communist, ^{Independent} Congress, Bharata, and the Bharata Janata Parties). They are well organized and explained in India's constitution. One procedure that has led to this is the election process that is like the U.S. with primaries and general. This led to that because most of the people are ~~no~~ ^{sup}porters of three of these four therefore making it easier in elections. Another factor is the constitution. It explains very specifically everything having to do with the government, and its processes. ~~the rest of the world~~ ~~the rest of the world~~