



AP[®] Comparative Government & Politics 2002 Sample Student Responses

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3

Political legitimacy has been extraordinarily difficult for Nigeria to achieve, essentially due to fragmentation along ethnic lines. The Hausa in the north, Ibo in the east, and Yoruba in the southwest, are the three major ethnic groups competing for power. Competition between the tribal groups has prevented the construction of a national government that can maintain control for any reasonable length of time with the peaceful, voluntary support of the majority of Nigerians and nonviolent political participation - all important elements of a legitimate government.

Political parties have been affected by this fragmentation as well. In each of the three regions mentioned, there are among others, individual democratically-oriented parties. But because of resistance to cooperation between tribal groups for ethnic and religious reasons, it has been virtually impossible to build a democratic coalition spanning the entire country, so it is hard for any one party to break away from tribal association and gain a foothold in the political sphere.

Globalization has challenged Nigerian political legitimacy in the sense that as soon as the profitable oil trade began with the outside world, corruption undermined the government. Oil money was spent foolishly and embezzled. Had global forces made an effort to guide Nigerian development rather than simply pour money into the country for oil, this could have prevented the collapse of a somewhat stable and previously legitimate government.

3

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Sovereignty is another issue Nigeria must face as globalization stimulates its contact with the outside world. Nigeria gained independence in 1960 from Britain, but the realization of both a lack of unity politically, and the potential to profit from natural resources, could threaten Nigeria's sovereignty. The "divide and conquer" principle would be easy to execute in a country like Nigeria, and outside forces will threaten Nigeria increasingly and influence its cultural development. A foreign coup, or even domination of separate colonies, could easily break apart Nigeria's fragile state.

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3

Fragmentation has had a massive effect on Indian Politics. Fragmentation, ~~has~~ as far as Indian Political Parties are concerned, ~~is~~ has lead to a multitude of different parties. The ruling BJP is one example, but also the Sikhs, Muslims, and other ethnic groups all have their own political parties. This affects Indian politics in that the multitude of parties necessitates coalition building, but also perpetuates division along ethnic lines. Fragmentation ~~is~~ also challenges the sovereignty of India. This is through the Kashmir question. The Muslims of Kashmir have ~~been~~ been fighting India for fifty years ~~with the~~. Recently, the attacks have extended to the very steps of the Indian Parliament, and so does pose a serious threat to the sovereignty of India.

However, the opposite force of Fragmentation, Globalization, has also affected Indian Politics. Economic globalization brought Enron, a power company, to India. Through apparently corrupt practices, Enron secured a contract to supply ~~to~~ India with electric power. This apparent corruption severely damaged the legitimacy of the Indian Government. Globalization has also brought many new political parties. Competing with the ethnic parties are also ~~other~~ parties to liberalize the Indian economy and political system.

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3

a) In India, political parties are a result of fragmentation. The political parties, such as the BJP are formed around the religions. The BJP is a primarily Hindu party that focuses on the welfare of the Hindus in India as well as the partial institution of the caste system. There are other parties that adhere to certain other religions. The ~~Sikhs~~ Sikhs and the Muslims have their parties that look out for their interests.

Sovereignty is also affected by fragmentation. Since there are so many languages in India, they needed to be ruled somewhat "separately." Because of this, the regions were set up and a federal system was instituted. The division of India + Pakistan is another example of fragmentation. Hindus in India + Muslims in Pakistan. Also the fighting in Kashmir is due to this problem.

b) Because of globalization, Muslims + Sikhs are able to live somewhat peacefully together in India. This is a result of some of the coalition political parties, ones that are not limited to religion. There are some parties that members of Sikhism, Hinduism, Islam + Christianity all belong, to advocate the interests of a certain topic or subject unrelated to religion.

3

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It is because of globalization that the Muslims and sikhs in India recognize the predominantly ~~Hindu~~ Hindu government as politically legitimate. There is a possibility ~~that~~ that they could very well revolt and break off from India, which some want, but since the majority lives in some semblance of peace, as well as participate in politics, it shows their recognition of India as politically legit and this is a result of globalization.