



## AP Government & Politics: Composition 2000 Student Samples

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## AP Comparative Government & Politics 2000 Student Samples

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4

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However, in ~~the~~ 2000, Zedillo has promised to hold elections in hopes to bring trust to his people.

Political parties also contribute to democracy. Although, Mexico contains several political parties, their inability to voice themselves due to PRI influence, has helped to deteriorate any democratic foundations. The two other main political parties in Mexico ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> the PAN and PRD. Both parties are beginning to gain popular support as the PRI party slowly releases its grasp on the government. Both parties are drawing support from ~~the~~ the younger generations and from ~~the~~ middle class people. Both parties policies, especially PRD are aimed at helping middle class families. The PAN party draws most of its support from

Roman

Catholics, and since 90% of Mexico's population is Roman Catholic, the PAN party is starting to influence the government. Both parties goals are aimed at stabilizing the economy, by stabilizing the peso, lowering inflation and providing more jobs for the people. Although, the PRI is very dominant, the PAN and PRD are slowly beginning to voice their opinion, thus contributing to ~~the~~ the roots of democracy.

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There are many factors within a system that contribute to make it a democracy. One of these factors is that of competitive political parties. It is the competition that makes the party strive to be the best that it can be. It tries to appeal to as much of the population as possible and thus represents their views more accurately. This is why competition among the parties instills democracy. An independent judiciary also contributes to democracy. The justices on the Supreme Court are free from the influence of the executive and legislative branches. The executive ~~chooses~~ chooses the members and the legislative branch chooses the number of justices but in the end the decision is completely up to the justices. This shows the "separation of powers" which is essential in a democracy. The justices ~~are~~ are free to assess what they feel the public's opinion is. On top of that, due to the fact that they are not elected officials and are a justice for life they do not need to worry about pleasing their constituents. Thus they can be a force that does not follow the "passions" of public opinion. This helps instill a democracy as they do not have to base every decision on the public opinion, but can not stray too far from it.

In Nigeria the competition of political parties has ~~helped~~ contributed to democracy. Once political parties got away from being based on ethnic divisions they formed encompassing groups that were based on

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4

ideology. Thus like most countries a "left" party was formed as well as a "right". The competition between these two parties has made each strive to be the best and encompass as much of the population's beliefs as possible. This has helped contribute to the representation of the people. The independent judiciary has not worked quite as well for Nigerian Democracy. Ethnic conflict have hurt this institution. There are arguments over the authority of Muslim courts established in the North that decide things differently than the courts established in the south. The ethnic conflicts brought about by the courts, do not help the democracy. The nature of the independence of the courts from the other branches of government does help the "separation of powers". In this respect it does help promote democracy.

because they promote division

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Democracy has certain characteristics often associated with it. Among these are sustained and recurring elections and an independent judiciary which contribute to democracy. However, not many things can help democracy in Nigeria.

Sustained and recurring national elections contribute to democracy by allowing the people to choose who represents them. By electing people to office, the constituency knows their views will be present in government. If they aren't, then the politician is voted out of office. An independent judiciary also contributes to democracy by checking the powers of other branches of the government. The judiciary ensures the upholding of a constitution-like document. Thus, protecting people's rights from being infringed upon by an ambitious government.

Nigeria and democracy just don't seem to like one another. Sustained elections will only contribute to democracy if the people have been socialized in a democratic system. This socialization never occurred though. Nigeria was a British colonial empire throughout the Age of Imperialism until the mid 20th Century. During this time no democratic

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institutions were established. That rules out the independent judiciary contributing to democracy. Furthermore, due to ethnic conflict and fear among the groups, elections caused great panic. The groups actually feared for their existence once a rival came to power. Neither has contributed to the development or perpetuation of democracy in Nigeria.

Sustained and recurring elections and an independent judiciary are associated with democracy. These two characteristics have not contributed to democracy in Nigeria though. These are just a couple of things that are often associated with democracy.