

INTL 3300: Comparative Election Report

The objective of this report is to describe the most recent national elections in two countries of your choosing—and to discuss the extent to which the outcomes of those elections were influenced by the countries' domestic political environments. Only pick countries that have held national elections within the past three years. Election timing information is available at www.electionguide.org.

This assignment is **due in class on or before April 24**.

The report should be 4-7 pages, double or 1.5 spaced, 10-12 point font. Cite referenced works properly. You may use any citation style, as long as it is consistent throughout. I recommend the APSA style, for which there is a nice handout available here: <http://bit.ly/11cna8o>.

Paper Requirements

1. Use the questions below as a guide for the initial, background portion of your report:
 - Are the countries fully democratic? Semi-democratic? Not democratic?
 - What types of electoral systems were used?
 - In both countries, how many viable parties competed? What were their names? What were their ideologies/platforms? Produce a one- or two-dimensional map of the party systems in both countries based on these ideologies.
 - What were the primary issues that the campaigns in both countries engaged with?
 - Were the elections legislative, presidential, or both?
 - Are the regimes parliamentary, presidential, or semi-presidential?
 - Are the countries federal or unitary? Do they have one or two legislative houses?
2. Next, discuss the outcomes of the elections in both countries: which people and/or parties won?
3. Finally, analyze why the elections turned out the way they did:
 - How did the domestic political environments of your countries affect the context of the elections (e.g., the key issues and main competing political parties) and, ultimately, the election results?
 - In answering this question, explicitly compare and contrast your two countries. Were there key differences in their political environments that led to any observed differences in the electoral context and outcomes?

