Comparative Government

AN INTRODUCTION

J. BLONDEL

European University Institute Florence

SECOND EDITION

PRENTICE HALL

Contents

Preface to the first edition	xi
Preface to the second edition	xiii
List of tables and figures	xiv
PART I General framework and concepts	1
1 The importance and scope of comparative government Introduction	3 3
Benefits of comparative study	4
The scope of the study of comparative government Overview	8
Further reading	12 12
- arms rounning	
2 Political systems and the role of institutions	14
Introduction	14
The political system	15
Structures, institutions and groups	19
Links among the structures in the political system	22
Overview	25
Further reading	26
3 Types of political system	27
Introduction	27
A framework of norms for distinguishing political systems	28
The five main types of political system in the world today	34
Institutions and groups in political systems	40
Overview	46
Further reading	46

vi Contents

4	Political development	48
	Introduction	48
	The concept of political development	. 49
	Political development and the role of structures	53
	Political development and the role of norms	56
	Overview	60
	Further reading	61
5	Legitimacy, integration and coercion	62
	Introduction	62
	Legitimacy and individual support	63
	Political integration	67
	Coercive political systems and dictatorships	71
	Overview	74
	Further reading	75
PA	RT II Society and government	77
6	The social bases of political systems	79
	Introduction	79
	Political systems and socioeconomic structure	80
	Plural societies	85
	Cultural characteristics	89
	Overview	93
	Further reading	94
7	Groups and political systems	95
	Introduction	95
	Controversies about groups in political life	96
	The classification of groups and political systems	99
	Communal and associational groups	105
	Overview	110
	Further reading	111
8		113
	Introduction	113
	Towards a general theory of communication	114
	Communication processes and the communication media	116
	The effect of public communication	122
	Overview	125
	Further reading	126

	Contents	vii
PAF	RT III Political parties and elections	127
9	Political parties: origins, nature and structure Introduction Political parties in the world today Social bases and goals of parties The structure of political parties Overview Further reading	129 129 129 133 139 150
10	Party systems Introduction Systems without parties Single-party systems Systems of more than one party Atlantic party systems Other systems of more than one party Overview Further reading	153 153 154 156 164 167 172 177
11	Parties, elections and direct democracy Introduction Arrangements to ensure fair electoral practices Electoral systems and seat allocation Electoral systems and party systems Referendums and direct democracy Overview Further reading	180 180 181 184 188 194 196
12	Parties in the world today Introduction Party stability Recruitment of national decision-makers National decision making The link between rulers and the population Overview Further reading	199 199 200 204 205 206 211 211
PA	RT IV Governmental structures	213
13	Constitutions Introduction Constitutional rules Constitutional supremacy The content of constitutions Overview Further reading	215 215 216 218 222 227 228

.

viii Contents

14	Centralization and decentralization	. 229
	Introduction	229
	Centralization and decentralization	230
	The federal model	234
	Comparison of federal and unitary states	238
	Unions of states	242
	Overview	245
	Further reading	246
15	Representation: legislatures and parliaments	248
	Introduction	248
	Formal powers and the effective role of legislatures	249
	Characteristics of contemporary legislatures	253
	The activities of legislators	259
	The influence of legislatures	261
	Overview	265
	Further reading	265
16	Nátional executives	267
	Introduction	267
	The functions of national executives	268
	Forms of governmental organization	270
	Members of governments	280
	The impact of governments	284
	Overview	286
	Further reading	287
17	Political leadership	288
	Introduction	288
	What is political leadership?	289
	The institutional bases of leadership	292
	The personal qualities of leaders	297
	How much does leadership matter?	300
	Overview	302
	Further reading	303
	RT V Implementation and control	305
18	Bureaucracies	307
	Introduction	307
	Governments and administrative 'obedience'	310
	Special responsibilities and independence of administrators The administrative or technocratic state: myth or reality?	315
	The administrative of technocratic state: myth of reality?	318

C	or	ıte	n	ts

ix

	Overview Further reading	321 . 321
19	The role of the military in the political process Introduction The propensity of military intervention Levels of military intervention Military regimes and their fate Overview Further reading	323 323 324 328 331 337 338
20	Rule adjudication and judges Introduction Rule adjudication and the independence of courts The depth of rule adjudication The scope of rule adjudication Overview Further reading	339 339 342 347 352 356
21	The policy process Introduction What is the policy process? Individuals and socioeconomic forces How far is the policy process rational? Policy styles and the policy process Overview Further reading	358 358 359 362 363 366 369 370
22	Government and people in contemporary politics Introduction Indirect relations between people and government Direct links between people and government Overview Further reading	371 371 373 377 382 383
23	The future of the study of comparative government Introduction General theory: norms, structures and behaviour Middle-range theory: the dynamics of structures Overview Further reading	384 384 385 387 391 392
Bib	liography	393
Ind	ex	408