

Introduction to Comparative Politics, POLS 102-03
Spring 2010, Professor Langohr
Final Paper Assignment – Due in class Thursday April 22

*This paper should be no longer than eleven pages double-spaced, have one-inch margins, and be in a font no smaller than 11-point. **I will stop reading at the end of the eleventh page.** All late papers will be graded down 5 points (1/2 of a grade) per late day unless your class dean contacts me to explain why you cannot turn the paper in on time. Put your name ONLY on a cover sheet which you put as the LAST page of your paper. I NEED ONE HARD COPY OF YOUR PAPER, AND ONE COPY E-MAILED AS AN ATTACHMENT TO vlangohr@yahoo.com*

You don't need to have an introductory paragraph for the paper as a whole; just label the separate parts of the paper 1), 2), 3).

ANSWER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. The sources to be used are lecture notes, readings from the syllabus, and the following readings

- *Poverty, Participation, and Democracy: A Global Perspective*, ed. Anirudh Krishna, (Cambridge University Press, 2008), 1-9, 65-78 (ER)
- *Human Development Report, China 2007/08*, United Nations Development Program, excerpts (ER), 1-16 (ER)
- *National Human Development Report, India, 2001*, 51-52, 68-70, 94-96 (ER)
- *Human Development Report 2007/8*, page 1 of country page on India, page 1 of country page on China (ER)
- "Popular Protest in China," Elizabeth Perry
<http://thebrowser.com/books/interviews/perry>

Start about halfway down the page, with the question "Is the Cultural Revolution Still Important Today?" In this article Perry, a renowned scholar of China, notes what she thinks are some of the best books on China; as she does so, she articulates some key points about protest in China during Tiananmen and today.

- "China's Rising Tide of Protest Sweeping Up Party Officials," Edward Cody, *Washington Post*, September 12, 2005
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/11/AR2005091101681.html>
- "Chinese Parents Organize, Seeking Justice," Jill Drew, *Washington Post*, June 6, 2008
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/05/AR2008060503695.html?sid=ST2008060600132>

- “China Presses Hush Money on Grieving Parents,” Edward Wong, *New York Times*, July 24, 2008
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/24/world/asia/24quake.html?pagewanted=1&r=1&hp>
- “The Poisoning of China’s Babies,” Richard Spencer, *The Telegraph*, September 24, 2008
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/3070567/The-poisoning-of-Chinas-babies.html>
- “China’s Poisoned Milk Scandal: Is Sorry Enough?” Simon Elegant, *Time*, September 23, 2008
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1843536,00.html>
- “Two Men Sentenced to Death,” *Daily Mail*, January 22, 2009
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1126484/Two-men-sentenced-death-roles-Chinese-milk-scandal-killed-babies.html>

- 1) A poor Chinese man in his 60s decides to become the pen pal of a poor Indian man of the same age. The Chinese man figures that his life between the Chinese revolution in 1949 and the introduction of capitalist economic reforms beginning in 1979 will seem very unfamiliar to his Indian friend, so he decides to spend his first letter **explaining the main experiences in his life between the time that he was a teenager, during the revolution in 1949, until 1979.** Throughout this period he was a peasant living in the countryside. **After describing these events the Chinese man will assess whether his life by the late 1970s (BEFORE THE CHANGE TO A CAPITALIST ECONOMIC SYSTEM) was better or worse than it had been in the years right before the revolution** (in other words, before the capitalist reforms, would the man think the revolution on the whole had improved his life, or made it worse?) Make sure to give **specific reasons** to justify your argument that his quality of life improved or declined when comparing the 1949-1979 period to the period before 1949. **Write his letter in the first person.** (No more than three pages).

NOTE: The letter can be from a Chinese woman instead of a man. In this case, the letter will cover the same fundamental events discussed in the man’s letter, but will also include specifics of how a Chinese woman’s situation might be different than that of a man.

- 2) Do you think a poor Indian would be interested in trading his life in democratic India for that of his friend in today’s China? **JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWER**, making sure to use the readings here and class readings, particularly *In the Land of Poverty*. Make sure to engage with the argument on this put forward in the Anirudh Krishna piece; you do not have to agree with this argument, but you need to acknowledge it and, if you disagree, argue against it. Make sure to make reference **to** the difference in socioeconomic standards (literacy, life span, etc.) between the average Indian and the average Chinese citizen (This section and the answers to Questions 3 and 4 should each be 2-3 pages).

3) Do you see any evidence in *In the Land of Poverty* of specific ways that Ram Dass (RD) finds any benefit or satisfaction from living in a democracy? Pay particular attention to national and local elections; does it seem that RD feels he is able to use these elections to hold leaders accountable or to elect politicians who could help poor people like himself? In its measurement of democracy in different countries, Freedom House subtracts points for countries with “pervasive corruption.” Despite being a democracy, does India seem to suffer from pervasive corruption, and if so, how specifically does this hurt poor Indians (use syllabus readings and *In the Land of Poverty* to answer this)?

4) You are a Chinese Communist Party leader writing a memo for other CCP members about protests since the mid-1990s (do not include Tiananmen). Do not be afraid of telling the Party the truth; write the memo as accurately as you can based on the readings. First describe the scope of the problem since the mid-1990s (the Keidel piece on the syllabus will be helpful here) and then **make an argument about how the Party has been dealing with these protests. In other words, are there predictable patterns in how the Party deals with particular types of protest? Are protests over some issues, or protests made in particular ways (for example, protests that are more public or less so, violent or non-violent, etc.) treated differently than other protests? Are all protests bad for the Party, and even when the Party meets some of the demands of protesters on particular issues, are there limits in “giving in” to citizens’ demands which Party members cannot go beyond?** In this answer, make sure to consider all readings below, mentions in the syllabus readings of particular protests, such as labor protests discussed in the *New York Times* readings, and the Olympics protest discussed in class.