

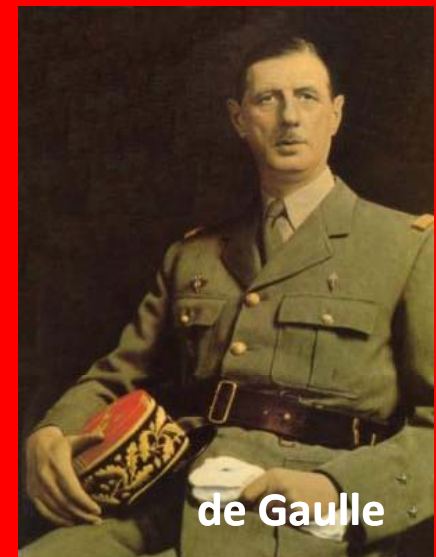
FRANCE

- I. Critical Historical Junctures
- II. Governance and Policy-Making
- III. Representation and Participation
- IV. Political Economy
- V. Culture and Identity
- VI. French Politics in
Transition



I. Critical Historical Junctures

- Absolutism and Revolution
- Restoration and Third Republic
- World Wars and Occupation
- Fourth Republic and Algeria
- Fifth Republic and de Gaulle
- Mitterrand and Economic Policy
- The 2002 Le Pen Bombshell
- Sarkozy – A New Beginning?



II. Governance and Policy-Making

THE CONSTITUTION:

- Semi-presidential Executive
 - Cohabitation
- Republican Government
- Popular Sovereignty
- Sovereignty within the EU

France's
National
Assembly



The Semi-Presidential Executive

PRESIDENT	PRIME MINISTER
Appoints Prime Minister	Picks Cabinet (but President presides)
Dissolves Legislature (limited)	Sets policy
Head of Armed Forces	Decides on Legislation
Chief Foreign Policy Officer	Implements Laws
Guarantor of National Independence (from 1940)	Appoints Civil and Military Posts
Protector of proper functioning of Govt (arbitrator in disputes between parts of gov't)	

The Executive

- **President**
 - Political Management
 - Policy-Making
- **Prime Minister**
 - Relationship with President
- **Government**
 - Council of Ministers

Elysee Palace
President's Residence



The Legislature

- **National Assembly**
 - 577 members, two round plurality vote with 12.5% threshold, five year term
- **Senate**
 - 321 members; elected through departmental electoral colleges of national and local officials
 - Nine year terms with 1/3 up every 3 years
- **Challenge through Constitutional Council**



French Senate

The Bureaucracy

- The French ‘Strong State’
 - *dirigisme* (activist economic policy)
- Bureaucrats in French Society
- *Grandes Ecoles*, including...
 - *Ecole Polytechnique* (Engineering & Science)
 - *Ecole Nationale d’Administration* (ENA)
 - Graduates of ENA dubbed ‘*enarques*’
- *pantouflage*: moving from government to cushy private position.

III. Representation and Participation

- **Rightist Parties**
 - Union for a Popular Movement (UMP)
 - Nouveau Centre (NC) & Mouvement Démocratique (MoDem)
 - National Front (FN)
- **Leftist Parties**
 - Socialist Party (PS)
 - French Communist Party (PCF)
 - Greens (*Les Verts*)
- **Traits of the Party System**



Sego couldn't beat Sarko

IV. French Political Economy

- Old French Capitalism
- Postwar Modernization through planning
 - ‘Indicative Planning’
 - ‘National Champions’
- ‘Thirty Glorious Years’ -- 1945-75
- 1970s and Strains on the System
- Free Market France?

Growth is back...
but not the jobs.



V. Culture and Identity

- Statism and Centralization
- Strong Leaders
- Protest Politics
- Universalism
- What it is to be French?
 - *Franglais* and Toubon Laws (1995)
 - Muslims in France



VI. French Politics in Transition

- **The Economic Challenge**
- **France and the EU**
 - **Constitution Referendum**
- **France and the US**

He won the girl...
can he win the people?

