

Comparative Politics Paper

Assignment # 6: “India: Development or Democracy?”



Second papers (and all revised papers) are due by the last day of class!!

Your paper should include a cover page and be typed, double spaced, and stapled (no paper clips, please!). This paper is an argumentative essay, meaning that it combines opinion with the marshalling of facts (i.e., research!) to support a particular argument. Any argument that rests on a point of fact **MUST** be backed up by an appropriate citation. If you are uncertain as to where you might find something, please ask me. Please see the “Paper Guidelines and Advice” on the course webpage for further tips. Your essay will be judged on the quality of its argument, not the length. However, it would be difficult to thoroughly answer this question in less than 3-5 pages.

QUESTION: India has long since established itself as a stable democracy, but is still trying to move up the ranks of developed nations. Is India’s democratic political system a help or a hindrance in trying to develop their economy – especially given the various ethnic, social and religious divisions that can divide the populace? That is, would India be more likely to develop faster if it was an authoritarian system like China?

RESEARCH TIP: See the two attached articles from *The Economist* on India v. China (“A Tiger Falling Behind?”, June 19th, 2003 and “The Tiger in Front” March 3, 2005.)

REVISION AND RESUBMISSION: Papers can be revised and resubmitted for re-grading. You must, however, include the original paper with my comments and a copy of the “Paper Revision Form” (available in PDF on the course website), which asks you to explain how you have improved your paper. **You will only receive a higher grade if the revised version shows a substantial improvement over the original.** All revised papers are due no later than October 28. First submissions after that date are not eligible for revision. You are also strongly encouraged to discuss your papers with me *prior* to turning them in. This almost always results in a higher grade.