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:

- Republican Government
- Popular Sovereignty
- Sovereignty within the EU

• Semi-presidential Executive
  – Cohabitation

France’s National Assembly
# The Semi-Presidential Executive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Prime Minister</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appoints Prime Minister</td>
<td>Picks Cabinet (but President presides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissolves Legislature (limited)</td>
<td>Sets policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Armed Forces</td>
<td>Decides on Legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Foreign Policy Officer</td>
<td>Implements Laws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guarantor of National Independence (from 1940)</td>
<td>Appoints Civil and Military Posts</td>
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<td>Protector of proper functioning of Govt (arbitrator in disputes between parts of govt)</td>
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The Executive

• President
  – Political Management
  – Policy-Making

• Prime Minister
  – Relationship with President

• Government
  – Council of Ministers
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
The Bureaucracy

• The French ‘Strong State’
  – *dirigisme* (activist economic policy)

• Bureaucrats in French Society

• *Grandes Ecoles*, including…
  – *Ecole Polytechnique* (Engineering & Science)
  – *Ecole Nationale d’Adminstration* (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?
  - 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?