**Summer Assignment 2019 - 2020**

**Concepts for Comparison - (pp. 12-51)**

Topic 1: The Comparative Method

1. What is the difference between empirical and normative information?
2. What are the three groups the Wood text breaks countries into? Where does each of the AP6 fall?

Topic 2: Sovereignty, Authority and Power

1. What is “monopoly of violence” and why does Weber use this phrase to define statehood?
2. What is an example and a non-example of a geographic entity with sovereignty?
3. Why do multicore states often develop unevenly? What are other potential negative aspects of multiple cores in one state?
4. What is one advantage and one disadvantage of a parliamentary and presidential system?
5. Why do authoritarian regimes often practice corporatism? (Think of benefits centered around legitimacy)
6. What are the three types of legitimacy? Which do you think Russia fits into? The United Kingdom?
7. What is liberalism? What are characteristics of a liberal democracy?
8. How are communism and socialism different? How are they similar?

Topic 3: Political and Economic Change

1. A political scientist might describe attitudes toward change in the following way

Radicals -------------------Liberals------------------------Conservatives-----------------------Reactionaries

How might each of these groups feel about tax reform? (or pick another topic that interests you)

1. In addition to free and fair elections, what are additional characteristics the book mentions that liberal democracies possess?
2. Why might an illiberal democracy also be a “procedural” democracy?
3. Which of the AP6 has moved toward both economic and political liberalization?
4. What are the characteristics of a command economy? Historical and contemporary example?
5. What might healthcare look like in a mixed economy?

Topic 4: Citizens, Society and the State

1. What are the types of things considered to be social cleavages within a state’s political system?
2. Consider the difference between Republicans and Democrats in the United States. Which type of social cleavage on page 46 do you think best explains this division? Why?
3. Is there a correlation between voter turnout and the legitimacy of a regime in a state? Why or why not?
4. What does civil society look like in an authoritarian state? Why is it maintained this way?