

PS 204- Spring, 2018

Institutions that can be decided in your constitution as of 4/24/18:

1. Organization of your executive branch
 - a. If you have a presidential system... veto power? Decree power? do you have a VP? If so, is the VP selected by the pres, elected with the pres, or elected separately? Does the VP have equal powers, or is he/she only important if the pres dies?
 - b. If you have a parliamentary system, how many cabinet members? Will you reserve cabinet seats for any particular ethnicities/religions/genders etc?
 - o Vote of confidence- if a legislature votes to dissolve the PM & cabinet, are new legislative elections called? Is there a special % needed for a vote to dissolve, or just simple majority? Does the legislature have to agree on a new PM & cabinet before it can dissolve (i.e., constructive vote of confidence, used in Germany).
 - c. If you have a semi-presidential system, all of the above plus: what is the balance of power between the president and prime minister? That is, what powers does the president have, and what powers does the prime minister have?
2. Organization of Legislative Branch
 - a. How many houses? How many people in each house? Do the houses have symmetrical power? Committee system? Oversight? Further, maybe you might want to invent a new position in the legislature- someone who is selected or elected? Any gender quotas or reserved seats?
 - b. Electoral System (type, and details such as district magnitude and electoral threshold)
3. Geographic Distribution of Power
 - a. Unitary, Federal, or a mix of both?
 - b. if not pure unitary, who will resolve disputes between regional and national level? Process for high court to resolve disputes? Also, do you want to spell out policy responsibilities in the constitution, or leave it to the national level to disperse policy responsibility as it sees fit? I.e., Will the regions have specific legislative realms in which they get all of the power for their region, or... will the regions be able to create any sort of law, as long as it doesn't conflict with existing national law?
 - c. If you have a federal system, how much power will the regions have? Will they have their own regional govts? Will the central or national govt be able to dissolve or influence these regional governments? How will you divide the country- i.e., what will the regions be? (feel free to include a map with your constitution)