

**Centre for West Asian Studies**  
**School of International Studies**  
**Jawaharlal Nehru University**  
**Ph. D. Course**

**Course Code: WA 602**

**Course Title: West Asian Political Systems**

**Course Teacher: Dr. Jajati K. Pattnaik**

**Credits: Four**

**Instruction method: Lectures, Seminars and Tutorials**

**Evaluation Method: Sessional Work and Semester Examination**

**Course Duration: One Semester (First Semester)**

**Contact Hours: Four Hours Per Week**

**Objectives:**

West Asia is characterised by a mixture of political systems, i.e., monarchical, democratic, military, Islamic, and consociational. The syllabus to study these systems has been structured to expose the students to the finer details of relevant political systems operating in diverse political mosaics. The course has been embedded in a theoretical framework grounded on country-specific studies to give the students a conceptual understanding of such political systems.

**Learning Outcomes:**

The Course is designed to achieve the following learning outcomes: to develop research skills in the learners to undertake rigorous and cutting-edge research in domain-specific or related ones; encourage analytical and critical thinking among the learners to expand their depth in the field; and to broaden the learners' scope of knowledge and open up new avenues for innovative research.

**Course Structure**

- I. Concepts: Political System, Political Culture, Political Development, Political Communication, Ideology, Political Legitimacy and Deep State
- II. State Formation in West Asia: Theoretical Perspectives
- III. Monarchy and Politics
- IV. Democracy and Politics
- V. Islam and Politics

- VI. Military and Politics
- VII. Democratisation in West Asia: Prospects and Constraints

### **Essential Readings:**

- Agwani, M. S. (1992). *Religion and Politics in West Asia*. S Chand and Company Ltd.
- Broomley, S. (1999). *Rethinking Middle East Politics: State Formation and Development*. Polity Press.
- Dabashi, H. (2012). *The Arab Spring: The End of Postcolonialism*. Zed Books.
- Lijphart, A. (2007). *Thinking about Democracy: Power Sharing and Majority Rule in Theory and Practice*. Routledge.
- Lofgren, F. (2016). *The Deep State*. Penguin Books.
- O' Neil, P. H. and Rogowski, R. (2017). *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Sadiki, L., Korany, B., Brynen, R. and Noble, P. (Eds.). (1998). *Political Liberalisation and Democratisation in the Arab World*. Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Said, Edward. (1978). *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books.
- Saikal, A. and Acharya, A. (Eds.). (2014). *Democracy and Reform in the Middle East and Asia: Social Protest and Authoritarian Rule after the Arab Spring*. Bloomsbury Publishing House.

### **Suggested Readings (Unit Wise):**

#### **Unit I:**

- Almond, G. A., Powell, G.B., Dalton, R.J. and Strom, K. (2011). *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. Pearson.
- Almond, G.A. and Powell, G. B. (1966). *Comparative Politics: A Developmental Approach*. Little Brown.
- Easton, D. (1953). *The Political System: An Inquiry into the State of Political Science*. Alfred A. Knopf.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2024). *The Analysis of Political Structure*. Routledge.
- Herman, E.S. and Chomsky, N. (1988) *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*. The Bodley Head.
- McCormick, J., Hague, R. and Harrop, M. (2022). *Comparative Government and Politics*. Bloomsbury Academic.

#### **Unit II:**

- Christie, K. and Masad, M. (2013). *State Formation and Identity in the Middle East and North Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Darling, L.T. (2022). 'Trajectories of State Formation across Fifteenth-Century Islamic West-Asia: Eurasian Parallels, Connections, and Divergences,' *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 52 (4).

Khoury, P.S., and Kostiner, J. (Eds.). (1990). *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East*. University of California.

Said, E. (1993). *Culture and Imperialism*. Vintage Books.

### **Unit III:**

Al-Yassini, A. (1985). *Religion and State in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*. Westview Press.

Bianco, C. (2024). *The Gulf Monarchies After the Arab Spring: Threats and Security*. Manchester University Press.

Champion, D. (2003). *The Paradoxical Kingdom: Saudi Arabia and Momentum of Reform*. Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd.

Pattnaik, J. K. (2017). *Saudi Arabia: Political Structure & Reform*. New Century Publications.

Thomson, M. C. and Quilliam, N. (Eds.). (2020). *Governance and Domestic Policy-Making in Saudi Arabia*. Bloomsbury.

### **Unit IV:**

Aboultaif, E. W. (2020). *Power Sharing in Lebanon: Consociationalism since 1820*. Routledge.

Galnoor, I. and Blander, D. (2018). *The Handbook of Israel's Political System*. Cambridge University Press.

Heper, M. & Sabri, S. (Eds.). (2002). *Political Leaders and Democracy in Turkey*. Lexington Books.

Peretz, D. and Doron, G. (1997). *The Government and Politics of Israel*. Westview Press.

Salamey, I. (2021). *The Government and Politics of Lebanon*. Peter Lang Publishing Inc.

### **Unit V:**

Akhav, S. (1980). *Religion and Politics in Contemporary Iran*. State University of New York Press.

Mahmood, M. (2006). *The Political System of the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Gyan Publishing House.

Rieffer-Flanagan, B. A. (2013). *Evolving Iran: An Introduction to Politics and Problems in the Islamic Republic*. Georgetown University Press.

### **Unit VI:**

Abul-Magd, Z. (2017). *Militarising the Nation: The Army, Business, and Revolution in Egypt*. Columbia University Press.

Mandour, M. (2024). *Egypt Under El-Sisi: A Nation on the Edge*. Bloomsbury.

Vatikiotis, P. J. (1975). *The Egyptian Army in Politics: Pattern for New Nations*. Praeger Publishers Inc.

Ziadeh, R. (2012). *Power and Policy in Syria*, Tauris Academic Studies.

### **Unit VII:**

Sadiki, L. (2004). *The Search for Arab Democracy: Discourses and Counter-Discourses*. Columbia University Press.

----- (2009). *Rethinking Democratisation: Elections without Democracy*. Oxford University Press.

----- (Ed.). (2014). *Routledge Handbook of the Arab Spring: Rethinking Democratisation*. Oxford University Press.

Sonn, T. (1990). *Between Quran and the Crown: The Challenges of Political Legitimacy in the Arab World*. Routledge.