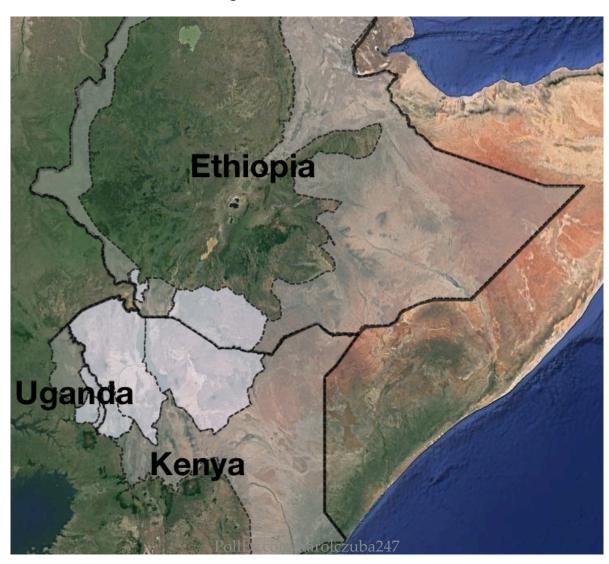
## POLS 103 A Comparative Politics

Class 1:

Introduction to the course Populism, inequality, and the value of comparative analysis

#### Welcome to POLS 103!

#### Comparative analysis: a case study

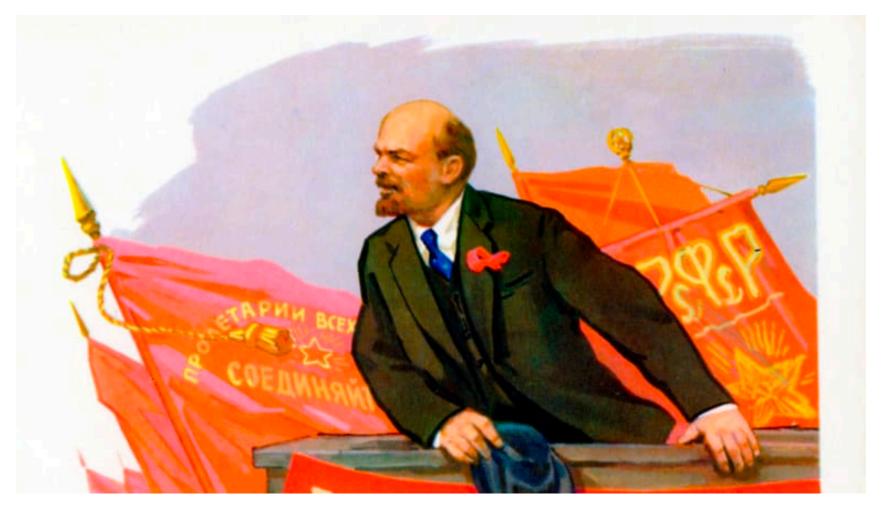




## What is comparative politics?

# What is politics?

#### кто кого?



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#### Politics and Political Science



#### Comparative politics

- Subfield of Political Science
- Method

# What does comparative politics compare?

#### Units of comparative analysis

- Regions
- Countries
- Subnational administrative units (e.g. states, counties)
- Ethnic groups
- Political parties
- Legislatures, executives, and judiciaries
- Regime types
- Etc.

#### Uses of comparative analysis

- Ghana and Togo
- Similarities: climate, income, ethnic and religious demography
- Differences: regime types, colonizer



#### Inference

- Descriptive
- Causal

#### Course overview

- Part I. Comparative political analysis
  - Introduction and the value of comparative analysis
  - Introduction to comparative politics
  - Comparative research
- Part II. The state and political development
  - Political order and the state
  - State-making
  - State-making: the United Kingdom in comparative perspective
  - Economic and political development, inequality, and exclusion

#### Course overview

- Part III. Political regimes
  - Democracy and democratization: India in comparative perspective
  - Democracy and democratic backsliding: the United States in comparative perspective
  - Authoritarianism
  - Authoritarianism: China and Russia in comparative perspective
- Part IV. Organization of the state
  - Constitutions and constitutional design: Nigeria in comparative perspective
  - Legislatures and electoral systems
  - Coalitions, coalition-building, and executives

#### Course overview

- Part V. Collective action
  - Political parties and interest groups
  - Contentious politics
- Part VI. Ideas and identities
  - Identities
  - Ideas and ideologies

#### Assignments

• Analysis assignment 1:

•	<b>Initial</b>	draft	5%	)
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- Final draft 5%
- Analysis assignment 2:
  - Initial draft 5%
  - Final draft 5%
- Research proposal 5%
- Research essay:
  - Initial draft 10%
  - Final draft 15%

#### Other assessment

• Class involvement 15%

• Quizzes (→ Kahoot!) 5%

• Final exam:

• In-class component 15%

• Out-of-class component 15%

• Extra credit Up to 5%

#### Policies and organizational matters

- Late submission and other penalties
- Attendance
- Electronics
- Accommodations
- Class organization
- Contact
- Schedule changes:
  - No class on January 21
- Responsibility for learning and classroom behavior

# Populism, inequality, and the value of comparative analysis



Global inequality has declined: Growth incidence curve, 1988-2008

