

GLOBAL EXAMPLES OF EUROPEAN KEY IDEAS

October 30, 2006, Brazil

Representing the Workers' Party, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva wins a second four-year term in a runoff election. He defeats Geraldo Alckmin of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party (PSDB) with over 60 percent of the vote. In his victory speech, Lula says he will intensify efforts to alleviate poverty during his second four-year term.

*(This example shows the strength of Brazil's **democracy**)*

October 23, 2007, Sri Lanka

The Tamil Tiger rebels launch a combined air and land attack on an air base in the northern Sri Lankan town of Anuradhapura, killing nine Sri Lankan soldiers. The fighting between the Tamil Tigers and the government forces has intensified in recent months. Tamil Tigers have been fighting for two decades to establish their own independent state.

*(The example shows Tamil **nationalism** in Sri Lanka)*

October 22, 2007, China

China's 17th National Congress of the Communist Party announces new leaders who will run the country for the next five years. President Hu Jintao is reappointed for a second term as party and army chief. Wen Jiabao is reappointed as premier. New central committee appointees include Xi Jinping, the party chief in Shanghai, who is expected to replace President Hu in 2012. China's National Congress is held every five years and is the country's most important political event. It endorses policies for the next five-year period and promotes and demotes senior party officials.

*(The example illustrates the **communist** system in China)*

August 19, 2007, Thailand

Voters in Thailand accept a new constitution in a referendum, which paves the way for elections later this year. The new charter limits future prime ministers to two terms in office and makes it easier to impeach them. It also has many other clauses, such as recognition of minority rights.

*(This example shows **constitutionalism** in Thailand, which will lead to a return to democracy)*

April 12, 2007, Swaziland

Sixteen political activists are arrested and face sedition charges in Swaziland for taking part in protests against a ban on political parties and calling for democratic changes in

their country. Swaziland has been governed by King Mswati III—on the throne since 1986—who rules by decree and says the country is not ready for democracy.

*(This is an illustration of **absolutism** in Swaziland)*

February 9, 2007, Venezuela

The Venezuelan government purchases *Electricidad de Caracas*, the country's main privately owned power company, a move that advances its nationalization program. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez plans to nationalize all key industries, saying this will allow more efficient distribution of the country's wealth to all of its people. The nationalization program worries foreign investors.

*(This example illustrates a step toward Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's goal to establish a **socialist** system in Venezuela)*

July 17, 2006, Uzbekistan

Uzbek President Islam Karimov signs a decree allowing foreign investment in many state-run businesses as part of a two-year privatization program. This decision opens doors for private investors in many key sectors of Uzbekistan's economy, such as oil and gas, cotton, electricity, financial services, aviation, railways, and chemicals.

*(This is an example of transition from a state-controlled economy to a **capitalist** economy)*

August 15, 2006, Japan/South Korea/China

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pays a visit to the Yasukuni shrine, a controversial war memorial in Tokyo, sparking strong protests from neighboring countries. To many of Japan's neighbors, the Yasukuni symbolizes Japanese militarism and colonialism before and during the Second World War. China makes an official diplomatic protest on behalf of the people of Asia while South Korea's president refuses to meet with the Japanese prime minister as long as he continues to visit the shrine.

*(The example illustrates difficulties in overcoming the legacies of Japanese **colonialism**)*

October 7, 2007, Costa Rica/United States

Costa Rican voters narrowly approve a controversial free-trade agreement with the United States, the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), in a national referendum. The agreement will abolish all trade barriers among Costa Rica and other DR-CAFTA members over the next ten years.

*(This is an example of **liberalization** of trade policies between CAFTA members)*