

Mr. Aldunate

Designing a Constitution

Country _____ is in trouble. Their government has recently collapse (with help from a belligerent foreign country). They are in a process of rebuilding. They require your help in designing a new constitution for their country. You and your group are to devise a new constitution (from scratch) for their country.

The circumstances/characteristics of the country are as follows:

- Population: 15 million
- Mostly homogenous people with a small politically active cultural minority (approximately 3 million living mostly in the northern region)
- Economy is mostly agrarian with a somewhat developed manufacturing sector found mostly in the richer capital region. There are some significant oil reserves in the north and east of the capital region.
- The southern region has traditionally and still is much poorer than the rest of the country.
- The country has been a traditional patriarchal society. However some women's groups are demanding greater rights.
- The region to the north speaks the same language but has a different dialect. There have been some independence movements.
- 80 percent of the population is Muslim with another 15 percent Christian. Another 5 percent has no religious affiliation.

Objective:

Draft a document that addresses these issues in a simple, clear and concise manner. Use your notes on the anatomy of a constitution to guide you.

Your Constitution must include and arrange the following:

Article I. The name of the country with a brief preamble (purpose, aim , values, etc)

Article II. The type of government.

Article III. Main government institutions with a brief description of their responsibilities

Article IV. Levels of government if necessary and clear division of power

Article V. Elections (when, how, who can run)

Article VI. Rights of citizens – list no more than 5

Article VII. A process for changing the constitution if needed (Amending formula)

Article VI. Emergency measures section

The group is to outline the constitution on a piece of chart paper and will share with class when completed.

10 marks