Legitimacy

Britain – huge due to tradition and gradualism
Russia – yes, 1993 Constitution, 2000 transition from Yeltsin to Putin
China – stable, military forces legitimacy, but citizens see it as corrupt
Mexico – legitimate through PRI in the early 20th century; legitimacy from the 1910 Revolution and revolutionary leaders (Zapato, Villa, Cardenas)
Iran – legitimate through theocracy; 2009 election questioned legitimacy
Nigeria – no, corruption

Social classes

Britain – nobility; Labour Party leadership from labor unions
Russia – nomenklatura (Communist Party chooses who to give jobs to); Putin broke up oligarchs
China – CCP, Politburo; nomenklatura; lots of peasants
Mexico – PRI ruled until 2000; huge rich/poor cleavage
Iran – clerics rule
Nigeria – military power; ethnic divisions

Elections

Britain – FPTP; PM calls general election
Russia – proportional in Duma, FPTP in Federation Council
China – no national elections; government approves local candidates
Mexico – non-renewable sexenio; combo of FPTP and proportional
Iran – Majles, president, Assembly of Religious Experts
Nigeria – FPTP; lots of voter fraud

Military

Britain – gov. control
Russia – increasing in strength
China – People’s Liberation Army; CCP controls it
Mexico – fights drug wars; mandatory service
Iran – Revolutionary Guards are loyal to shah
Nigeria – political power

Ethnic conflict

Britain – Irish and Muslims
Russia – Chechnya
China – Buddhists in Tibet
Mexico – Mestizo v. Amerindian
Iran – Sunni v. Shiite, Persian v. Azari
Nigeria – three major ethnicities in conflict
Political parties
Britain – Labour (poor, liberal); Conservative (rich, rightist); Liberal Democrats (centrist)
Russia – United Russia (Putin); Communist Party (Zyuganov); Liberal Democrats (Zhirinovsky, nationalism); Fair Russia (Mironov)
China – CCP domination
Mexico – PRI (Calles, centrist, corporatist structure, patron-clientelism); PAN (Calderon, rightist, strong in north); PRD (Obrador, leftist)
Iran – parties form around personality; reflects factionalism
Nigeria – divided by ethnicity

Constitution
Britain – none; govern by tradition
Russia – 1998
China – 1982, mentions CCP; unitary
Mexico – 1917; federal system
Iran – 1979; amended in 1989 to include the Supreme Leader (non-elected)
Nigeria – 1999; similar to U.S.

Government structure
Britain – unitary, becoming more federal (Welsh Assembly); constitutional monarchy; parliamentary democracy
Russia – presidential republic; dual executive; close to unitary; sovereign democracy
China – democratic centralism
Mexico – presidential republic, powerful president
Iran – unitary, theocratic republic
Nigeria – presidential republic like U.S.

Modernization
Britain – developed
Russia – developed, rapid movement to democracy and free market
China – move to mixed economy; developing; guanxi
Mexico – newly developed; legitimate gov., national identity
Iran – much poverty, newly developed; nuclear technology
Nigeria – developing; low GDP per capita

Corruption
Britain – none
Russia – black market, mafia
China – corruption came with mixed economy
Mexico – massive voter fraud; drug trade; camarillas
Iran – corruption, voter fraud
Nigeria – massive corruption; prebendalism
Religion

Britain – Anglican Church (official)
Russia – legal; majority is Orthodox
China – atheist; persecutes dangerous religious groups (Buddhists, Falon Gong)
Mexico – majority is Roman Catholic
Iran – mostly Shiite; Baha’i persecuted
Nigeria – north Muslim, south Christian

Social cleavages

Britain – nobility v. working class; noblesse oblige
Russia – wealth; oligarchs v. middle class v. lower class
China – urban v. rural; migration to cities
Mexico – urban v. rural, north v. south, Mestizo v. Amerindian, rich v poor
Iran – rich v. poor, reform v. conservative, Sunni v. Shiite
Nigeria – ethnicity, religion, language, region

Executive

Britain – PM is head of gov, Queen is head of state
Russia – PM is head of gov, president is head of state
China – premier is head of gov, president is head of state
Mexico – president is head of gov and state
Iran – president is head of gov, Supreme Leader is head of state
Nigeria – president is head of gov and state

Legislative

Britain – House of Commons with all power, House of Lords with no power
Russia – Duma dominates, Federation Council has little power
China – unicameral; true authority with CCP; CCP standing committee
Mexico – bicameral; Chamber of Deputies and Senate
Iran – unicameral; Majles elected; Guardian Council; Assembly of Religious Experts; Expediency Council
Nigeria – bicameral; House of Representatives and Senate

Judicial

Britain – Supreme Court; common law
Russia – Constitutional Court for judicial review, Supreme Court for criminal and civil cases; code law
China – Supreme People’s Court; code law; recent reforms give more autonomy to courts
Mexico – code law; Supreme Court of Justice with theoretical judicial review
Iran – code law; judges must be clerics; appointed by Supreme Leader; sharia (Islamic law) and qanum (Majles non-scared statutes); Supreme Court, Revolutionary Court, Clerical Court
Nigeria – common law, tribal law, sharia law; Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Sharia Court
Economy

Britain – mixed; Thatcher privatization; Blair’s third way; oil is NOT important
Russia – command to market; weak since it depends on oil prices
China – command to mixed
Mexico – mixed; relies on U.S.; WTO, NAFTA; PEMEX
Iran – mixed; small-level private enterprises
Nigeria – mixed; parastatals, patron-client relations; huge oil business

Civil society – how citizens organize and define themselves and their interests
Informal politics – the impact that beliefs, values, and actions of ordinary citizens have on policy-making
Co-optation – means a regime uses to get support from citizens
Patron-clientelism – the state provides benefits/favors to a single person or small group in return for public support
Social capital – reciprocity and trust that exists among citizens and between citizens and the state
Liberal (substantive) democracy – competitive elections, civil liberties, rule of law, judiciary neutrality, open civil society, civilian control of the military
Illiberal (procedural) democracy – just competitive elections
Technocrats – military officers and civilian bureaucrats
Transmission belts – interest groups have no autonomy from the state; authoritarian
Corporatism – state and interest group autonomy mixed
Interest group pluralism – autonomy in the interest groups; democratic