

## **AP Comparative Politics and Government Summer Reading 2017**

### **Book:**

Zakaria, Fareed. *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2007.

### **Purpose:**

AP Comparative Government and Politics is designed to introduce the fundamental concepts and skills utilized by political scientists as they study political institutions, processes, and outcomes. Therefore, we begin the course with an intensive political theory unit where we will establish a framework for comparing countries. In much of our comparative work, we will focus on the democratization process, assessing the challenges and successes that countries have experienced in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Fareed Zakaria's book, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*, introduces some of these challenges that we will discuss during our first unit this fall.

### **Summer Assignment:**

Please read the book, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*, written by Fareed Zakaria. As you read the text, please take notes on the questions below, which we will use in our first class discussion and our first written activity when we return from summer break.

*Tips for reading: Read all chapters. Focus most of your time on **chapter 3** and skim chapter 5.*

### **Questions:**

1. How does Zakaria differentiate between “democracy” and “liberty”? Why is this distinction significant when discussing democratic states today?
2. Based on Zakaria's discussion of “illiberal democracy,” please craft a definition of the term. Why does he think that the number of governments that can be characterized as illiberal democracies is increasing? Do you agree with this analysis? Explain.
3. According to Zakaria, what is the relationship between economic growth and democratization?

**Enjoy! I look forward to discussing the text in September! ☺**