

## Politics: My World

**Eduard Altarriba**

Button Books (Apr 1, 2025)

Softcover \$17.99 (58pp)

978-1-78708-151-2

Eduard Altarriba's *Politics*, part of the My World series, introduces general concepts of politics and its component parts without focusing on specific forms of government. Though its discussions are high-level, it gives its audience language and ideas to explore further.

The book begins by discussing the concept of power, defining it as “the ability some people have to influence others.” Then it explains some of the ways people might acquire or use power. Brief explanations of social hierarchy and class structures, violence as a tool of power, and the idea of laws and regulations complement these themes.

Because of its nation-neutral approach, *Politics* covers some concepts, as with the idea of a head of state versus a head of government, of proportional representation, or of elections called rather than prescheduled, in a way that's most applicable to countries with parliamentary systems. But it also details differences between planned economies and economic liberalism and between dictatorship, monarchy, and democracy well. It defines ideas like *infrastructure*, *foreign policy*, *the armed forces*, *populism*, and *corruption* with clarity, in the space of a quick blurb or two.

Throughout, the book is heavy with illustrations—sometimes used to clarify ideas from the text. For example, a section about majorities and coalitions uses a color-coded chart of a seated parliament and math equations about its makeup to explain these ideas. And the broad range of topics covered and the brevity of the text make the book an effective tool for drawing comparisons between political systems.

*Politics* is an approachable primer that introduces basic political science concepts to inspire further inquiry into how governments function.

JEFF FLEISCHER (March / April 2025)

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