FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Select one of the following seven countries: Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, or the Netherlands. In a five-six page (typed, double-spaced, 12 cpi, one-inch margins, paginated) essay, explain what characteristics of the political economic regime make the case you’ve selected statist, corporatist (liberal or social), or liberal in the post-WWII period. This requires that you specify the dominant kinds of economic policies in two areas: (1) type of industrial policies (be specific to particular policy instruments, examples of how they have worked and how they have changed) and (2) welfare state policies (specific programs, types, examples of how they have worked and how they have changed). If you pursue a third area – macroeconomic policies (conservative, expansionary, etc.), your work will be assessed for extra credit. Such credit will only accrue if you are precise enough about the ways in which macroeconomic policies have been coordinated with industrial and welfare state policies.

After outlining the institutions of economic and social policy in the country of your choice, assess to what extent economic actors and governments have been successful in weathering the challenges posed by “globalization.” Be sure to specify which elements of the Keynesian class compromise have been weakened or sacrificed for the sake of improving the “competitiveness” of the economy. Specify how governments, labor unions, and business have responded to these challenges. This will require that you move beyond the course readings and do some light research on your case; research that is specific to what happened in response to the economic crises of the 1970s and 1980s and reform that was undertaken (or not) during the 1990s to the present. Journal sources for your research may be found on Academic Search Premier, Proquest, PAIS, and last of all, on J-Stor. Do not favor full-text sources simply because they are more easily available.

Quantitative evidence: As part of your arguments concerning the political economic regime and your assessment of how well this regime faced the challenges of globalization, you are to employ quantitative evidence. This data may take the form of a table or figure placed at the end of the paper. You must refer to these data in the text in order for them to count. Alternatively, your quantitative data may be discussed as a simply comparative array of numbers (e.g., declining growth rates, falling unionization rates, heightened labor strikes). The use of weasel words (e.g., “many, most, some” etc.) will count against you. Show the numbers that back up your assertions. Consult the Data Resources page for sources.

Each of these sections of the paper – (a) the explanation of the political economic regime, (b) the examination of its response to globalization, and (c) the use of quantitative evidence constitute the most important components of the grade. They are worth 30%, 50%, and 20%, respectively.

This paper requires that you use parenthetical citations in the text and a bibliography (see the handout on citation format). The page range of 5-6 will apply only to text and not to any endmatter, including the bibliography, explanatory endnotes, and any tables or figures you append.

This assignment is due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29 as a SINGLE FILE, PDF, upload to your hand-in folders on Courses. Deviations from this schedule or format will receive a no credit designation.

NOTE: You may collaborate with students wishing to study the same country. Be mindful of the standards regarding academic misconduct and make sure that your paper is your own work product and that all ideas that are not yours are formally attributed in the endnotes or the bibliography.