

## 6 The French parliament: decline – and resurgence?

### Essays

How effective is the French parliament at fulfilling the functions typically assigned to legislatures in Western democracies?

‘Loyal workhorse, poor watchdog’ (Martin Harrison). Discuss this view of the French Parliament.

What steps have been taken to reinforce the power of France’s parliament since 1974, and with what success?

### Websites

The National Assembly’s website, at [www.assemblee-nationale.fr](http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr), posts an annual statistical review of parliamentary activity (*Bulletin de l’Assemblée Nationale, Statistiques*), as well as a recapitulation for each parliament, from which most of the statistics in this chapter are drawn (<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/11/documents/archives-11leg.asp> for 1997-2002, and <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/seance/statistiques-12leg.asp> for the 2002-2007 parliament). It also supplies biographies of individual Deputies (<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/tribun/comm3.asp>) and links to the progress of specific bills. Other National Assembly sites are those of the Office Parlementaire d’Évaluation de la Législation (<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/connaissance/office-legislation.asp>) and the Office Parlementaire d’Évaluation des Politiques de Santé (<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/connaissance/office-sante.asp>)

The Senate’s website is at <http://www.senat.fr/>.

The Journal Officiel de la République Française contains analytical tables of laws and decrees (<http://admi.net/jo/index.phtml>).

The Legifrance website, at <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/>, allows any bill to be tracked through the whole legislative process.

A cross-national site for parliaments is at <http://www.ipu.org>.

## 7 The Left and the Greens: the precarious recovery

### Essays

Analyse and explain the divisions within the French Left.

What was the appeal of Communism in France, and why has it declined?

Why is France’s Socialist Party weaker than in many other European countries?

### Websites

Parti Communiste Français <http://www.pcf.fr/accueil/php>

Parti Socialiste <http://www.parti-socialiste.fr>

Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire <http://www.lcr-rouge.org>

Lutte Ouvrière <http://www.lutte-ouvrière.org>

Les Verts <http://lesverts.fr>

## 8 The Right: domination and division

### Essays

To what extent can Gaullism still be called a meaningful current within the French Right?

Why has the moderate Right in France found it so difficult to unite in a single conservative party?

‘Political causes, rather than socio-economic ones, were at the root of the rise of the Front National.’ Discuss.

### Websites

CNIP	<a href="http://www.cnip.asso.fr">http://www.cnip.asso.fr</a>
CPNT	<a href="http://www.cpnt.asso.fr">http://www.cpnt.asso.fr</a>
Front National	<a href="http://www.frontnational.com">http://www.frontnational.com</a>
MPF	<a href="http://www.mpf-villiers.com">http://www.mpf-villiers.com</a>
UDF	<a href="http://www.udf.org/index.html">http://www.udf.org/index.html</a>
UMP	<a href="http://www.u-m-p.org/site/index.php">http://www.u-m-p.org/site/index.php</a>

## 9 Transformations of the party system: continuity and change

### Essays

To what extent is bipolarity in the French party system now dependent on institutional props?

Analyse the factors of continuity and change in the French party system since 1958.

### Websites

The Interior Ministry supplies a range of recent election figures (since the late 1990s), with detail by *département* and city, on [http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/rubriques/b/b3\\_elections/b32\\_resultats](http://www.interieur.gouv.fr/rubriques/b/b3_elections/b32_resultats)

The sites for France’s polling institutes, most of which have good archives, are as follows:

BVA	<a href="http://www.bva.fr/new/index.asp">http://www.bva.fr/new/index.asp</a>
CSA	<a href="http://www.tmo.fr/accueil.asp">http://www.tmo.fr/accueil.asp</a> (sometimes difficult to access; includes good archive on support for strikes and demonstrations on <a href="http://www.tmo.fr/dataset/bms_opi.asp">http://www.tmo.fr/dataset/bms_opi.asp</a> )
IFOP	<a href="http://www.ifop.com/europe/index.asp">http://www.ifop.com/europe/index.asp</a>
IPSOS	<a href="http://www.ipsos.fr">http://www.ipsos.fr</a>
SOFRES	<a href="http://www.tns-sofres.com/archives_pol.htm">http://www.tns-sofres.com/archives_pol.htm</a> (includes polls on presidents, prime ministers and political parties since 1974, entered from <a href="http://www.tns-sofres.com/etudes/pol/barofimgagsofres.htm">http://www.tns-sofres.com/etudes/pol/barofimgagsofres.htm</a> )

Cross-national election sites are at <http://www.parties-and-elections.de/indexe.html> and <http://www.electionworld.org/>.

## 10 The administration: foundations, myth and changing reality

### Essays

How applicable is the Weberian model of a bureaucracy to the administration in France?

Analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the state in France.

What challenges have faced the French state since the 1980s, and how effectively have they been met?

Is France’s civil service élite a national asset or a national liability?

‘La République des Fonctionnaires’ (Thierry Pfister). How justifiable is this description of Fifth-Republic France?

### Websites

The major portal for the French administration is <http://www.service-public.fr>

Other bodies discussed in the chapter include:

École Nationale d'Administration	<a href="http://www.ena.fr/">http://www.ena.fr/</a>
École Polytechnique	<a href="http://www.polytechnique.fr/">http://www.polytechnique.fr/</a>
The Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris	<a href="http://www.sciences-po.fr/">http://www.sciences-po.fr/</a>
Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés	<a href="http://www.cnil.fr/">http://www.cnil.fr/</a>
Commission d'Accès aux Documents Administratifs	<a href="http://www.cada.fr/">http://www.cada.fr/</a>
Autorité des Marchés Financiers	<a href="http://www.cob.fr/">http://www.cob.fr/</a>
Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel	<a href="http://www.csa.fr/">http://www.csa.fr/</a>
Commission de la Sécurité des Consommateurs	<a href="http://www.securiteconso.org/">http://www.securiteconso.org/</a>
Commission de Contrôle des Assurances	<a href="http://www.ccamip.fr/info/00">http://www.ccamip.fr/info/00</a>
<b>Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA)</b>	<a href="http://www.afssa.fr/">http://www.afssa.fr/</a>