

## **HISTORY & POLITICS:**

### **POLITICS:**

1. You are required to write an essay before you arrive in Oxford based on reading J.S. Mill's *On Liberty*. (Lots of editions of this are available, and any of them will be fine.) The essay title is "What constraints on personal liberty is it reasonable for a citizen to accept?". This essay should be handed in to the lodge, labelled for Dr Nick Owen, by Friday of 0th week.

2. You should also read Arend Lijphart's *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries* (2nd ed., 2012), chapters 1, 2, 6 and 7. Based on this reading, please make notes on the following questions:

- What is the difference between a presidential, semi-presidential, and parliamentary system?
- What other variables do the real-world operation of a regime depend on, besides those found in constitutions?

These notes should be handed in to the lodge with the Mill essay - by Friday of 0th week. You will get these notes back, to use when writing your first Tutorial essay.

3. Two other books that it would be useful to read are:

- Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (Revised ed., 2006)
- Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (2012)

Reading these two texts is recommended, but not compulsory. Points 1 and 2 are compulsory.

July 2016