

Revolutionary Waves: A Comparative Exploration of Political Leadership and Governance during French Revolution and in Present-Day Pakistan

Muhammad Younus^{1*}, Hajira Gul², Abdul Rehman³, Ibrahim Shah⁴

¹Department of Product Research and Software Development, TPL Logistics Pvt Ltd

²Consultant, Midwifery Association

³Department of English, Pakistan Air Force College, Sargodha

⁴Department of Oncology, The Aga Khan University

Corresponding Author: Muhammad Younus

mohammedyounusghazni@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: French Revolution, Public Movement, Democracy

Received : 5 August

Revised : 19 September

Accepted: 21 October

©2023 Younus, Gul, Rehman, Shah:

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the

[Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

This academic article compares political leadership and governance between the French Revolution to contemporary Pakistan, a nation facing political issues. This study examines the historical revolutionary waves that swept France in the latter part of the 18th century and Pakistan's political dynamics to reveal the similarities and differences in authority and governance. We aim to illuminate the reasons that led to the rise of French Revolution leaders by analyzing a wide range of historical records, primary sources, and contemporary literature. We want to understand how these leaders' views and deeds shaped history. This analysis compares Pakistan's political scene and leaders' leadership styles. We will also examine these leaders' issues and their impact on governance and socioeconomic development. The analysis shows revolutionary fervor in both periods. These leaders inspired and mobilized the public. Our extensive research also shows significant differences in ideology, power consolidation strategies, and governance systems during the distinct times – this study illuminates leadership and governance's long-term effects. We can learn from history. This research contributes to understanding political leadership, governance, and societal results

INTRODUCTION

The French Revolution (Stirk, 2015), an event of great significance in the annals of European history, has been the subject of extensive scholarly examination and scrutiny due to its far-reaching consequences on political leadership and governance. This research paper aims to investigate the political leadership and governance systems employed during the French Revolution (Hunt, 2010) and in contemporary Pakistan (Newberg, 2014). Through a comprehensive analysis of these two distinct temporal periods, our objective is to acquire a profound understanding of the intricate mechanisms that drive revolutionary waves and their profound ramifications on various political systems. Revolutionary waves (Lozano, 2017), a sequence of revolutions in different nations within a condensed timeframe, have been acknowledged as a recurring phenomenon of historical significance. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the comprehensive examination of these waves has solely been conducted within the past few decades. Through a comparative analysis of the French Revolution (Covo & Maruschke, 2021), a significant historical event, and the present-day political scenario in Pakistan (Islam, 1989), this study aims to elucidate the resemblances, disparities, and fundamental determinants that influence revolutionary movements and their consequences.

From 1789 to 1799, the French Revolution (Mondelli, 2016) was widely recognized as a pivotal epoch characterized by profound political and social transformations. The historical period under scrutiny was marked by a series of significant events, including the dethronement of the monarchy, the ascent of radical revolutionaries, and the subsequent formation of the First Republic. The Reign of Terror, characterized by heightened violence and political extremism (Sharp & Weisdorf, 2012), was a prime illustration of revolutionary turmoil's intricate nature and far-reaching ramifications. A comprehensive analysis of the leadership and governance dynamics observed during this period characterized by significant upheaval can give a deeper understanding of various obstacles and prospects of revolutionary movements ("Roundabouts: French Revolution," 2016). In contrast, it is worth noting that present-day Pakistan offers a valuable contemporary context that can be utilized to conduct a comparative analysis.

Pakistan (Carey, 1996), a nation characterized by a multifaceted political terrain, has undergone distinct periods of political transformation and encountered various obstacles. Through a comprehensive analysis of Pakistan's leadership and governance structures, this study aims to delve into the intricate dynamics of revolutionary waves within a contemporary framework (Malik, 2019). By scrutinizing these dynamics, we seek to evaluate their consequential effects on political systems. The present research paper will adopt a comparative methodology, incorporating historical analysis, theories from the field of political science, and case studies. Through a comprehensive analysis of the French Revolution (Heller, 2010) and the current state of affairs in Pakistan, our objective is to discern recurring patterns, influential factors, and underlying dynamics that play a role in the emergence of revolutionary waves and subsequently shape their outcomes. Using this comparative investigation, we aim to make a valuable contribution toward enhancing our comprehension of political leadership and

governance in the context of revolutionary transformations. In the subsequent sections of this scholarly article, exploration will be conducted into the historical backdrop of the French Revolution, followed by examining the political leadership and governance prevalent during that epoch. Subsequently, our attention will be redirected towards contemporary Pakistan. Through a comprehensive analysis of these two distinct temporal periods, we aim to elucidate significant parallels and discerning observations that can enrich our comprehension of revolutionary waves and their consequential ramifications on political systems.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The French Revolution and its Leadership Paradigm

The French Revolution (Stirk, 2015), a pivotal event in European history, ushered in a new political and social transformation era. In this epochal period, from 1789 to 1799, he witnessed the rise and fall of various leadership paradigms that played a crucial role in shaping the course of the revolution. This study explores the French Revolution (Edelstein, 2018), a significant historical event spanning from 1789 to 1799, representing a pivotal juncture in the annals of global history. The extensive analysis conducted by scholars has focused on examining the crucial roles played by key figures, namely Maximilien Robespierre, Georges Danton, and Napoleon Bonaparte, in shaping the revolution's trajectory. In his seminal work (Griffiths, 2012), the author comprehensively analyzes the various phases that characterize revolutions and the consequential rise of charismatic leaders within these tumultuous periods. In the realm of scholarly discourse, it is worth noting that the (Bertossi, 2012) seminal work serves as a valuable resource for comprehending the intricate ideological foundations that shaped the leadership dynamics throughout the revolution. The debate's subject revolves around leadership's efficacy during the French Revolution. His seminal work (Perovic, 2012) thoroughly analyzes the Committee of Public Safety's leadership and the contentious policies it implemented throughout the Reign of Terror. The examination of divergent viewpoints on leadership can also be observed in the (McPhee, 2013) seminal work; comprehensive analysis sheds light on the profound impact exerted by Enlightenment intellectuals upon the decision-making processes of revolutionary leadership.

Governance Challenges during the French Revolution

The French Revolution engendered a period of governance marked by a series of challenges, primarily stemming from the dynamic nature of political structures and institutions. Her seminal work (Fairfax-Cholmeley, 2018) delves into the complex and multifaceted connection between religion and governance in the context of the French Revolution. His seminal work (Bertossi, 2012) delves into the intricate dynamics of the political culture and governance approaches that unfolded within the National Assembly during the French Revolution. Additionally, examining the influence exerted by external forces on the governance of France is undertaken in seminal work (Bourdin, 2020). This scholarly piece delves into the intricate dynamics of the June Rebellion and its

consequential impact on the prevailing governance structures and political leadership during that period.

Present-Day Pakistan: Political Leadership and Governance Challenges

This study aims to comprehensively understand the complex dynamics that shape Pakistan's political landscape by analyzing the existing literature and empirical evidence. The findings shed light. To comprehensively understand present-day Pakistan, we must direct our attention toward the nation's political milieu and its various governance obstacles. The scholarly work (Weitz-Shapiro & Winters, 2022) offers a comprehensive analysis of the intricate dynamics between the military and the political leadership in Pakistan, shedding light on the profound influence exerted by the former on the latter and the resultant impact on the governance structures of the country. A comprehensive examination of governance patterns in South Asia, with a particular focus on Pakistan, is presented in (Soroya et al., 2021). Through a comparative lens, the author delves into the intricate dynamics of democracy and authoritarianism, shedding light on the historical context and providing valuable insights into the region's political landscape. By employing a meticulous analytical framework, the author offers a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding governance in South Asia, thereby contributing to the existing body of knowledge on this subject matter. Furthermore, an analysis of the impact of charismatic leaders on Pakistan's political terrain is undertaken (Weitz-Shapiro & Winters, 2022). This comprehensive study delves into the profound influence wielded by prominent figures such as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, shedding light on their significant contributions to governance and the mobilization of political forces within the country.

Challenges and Lessons Learned: A Comparative Perspective

This research endeavor aims to discern shared patterns in political leadership and governance during periods of revolutionary upheaval by drawing a comparative analysis between the French Revolution and contemporary Pakistan. The study of challenges encountered by leaders, both historical and contemporary, in the implementation of their societal visions, is of utmost importance. The examination of the delicate equilibrium between individual liberties and social cohesion is a central theme (Pottinger, 2011). In this seminal philosophical treatise, Arendt provides profound insights into the complexities and obstacles in post-revolutionary governance.

Documents by year

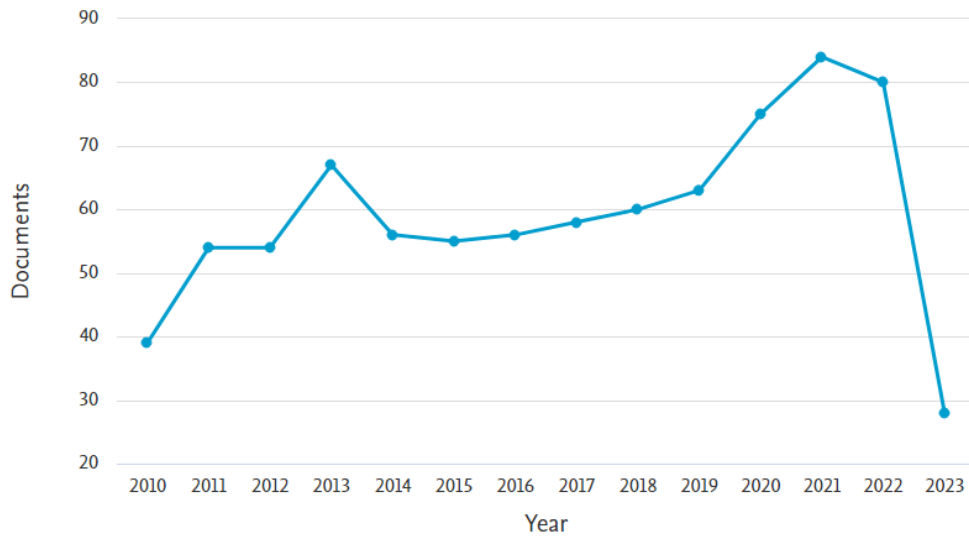


Figure 1. Publication on the Topic by Year

Documents by country or territory

Compare the document counts for up to 15 countries/territories.

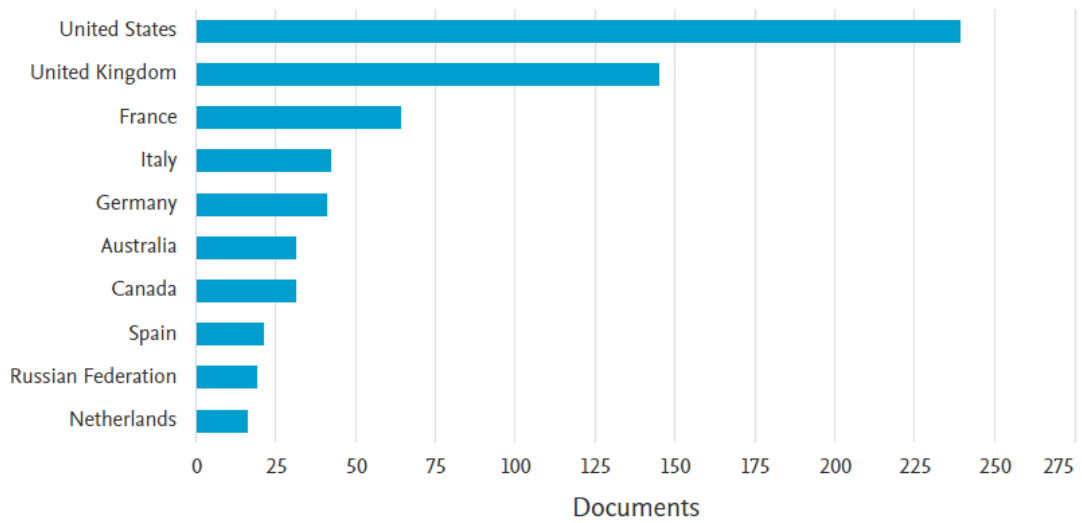


Figure 2. Publication on the Topic by Countries

Documents by subject area

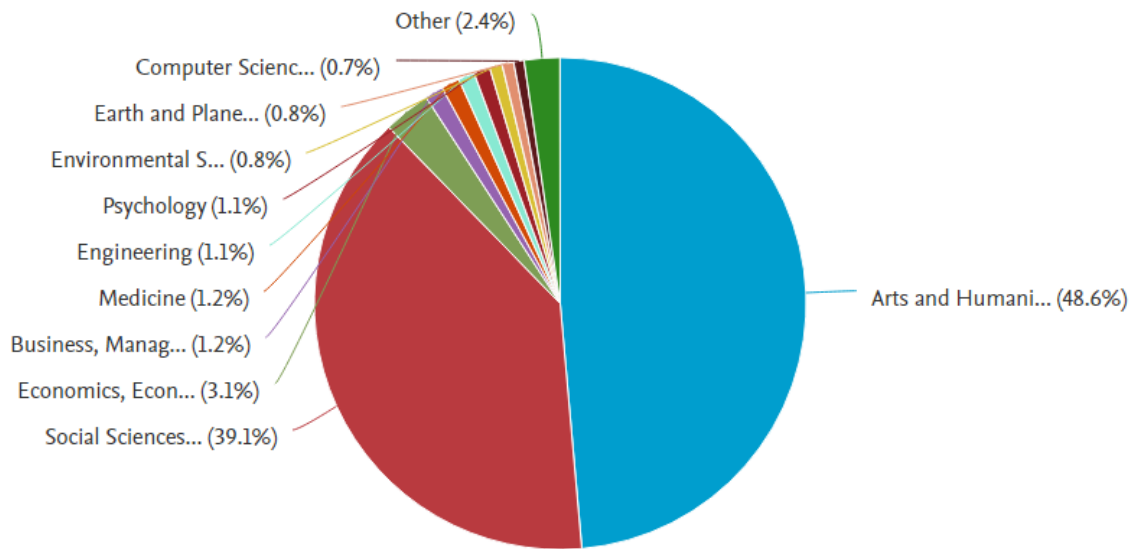


Figure 3. Publication on the Topic by Subject Area

METHODOLOGY

The chosen research design for this study will employ a comparative research methodology. The present method examines and juxtaposes two distinct cases to discern commonalities and disparities in political leadership and governance. The focus of this analysis will be on two specific cases: the French Revolution, a historical event that took place in the late 18th century, and present-day Pakistan, a contemporary nation-state. These cases will be examined to understand their respective contexts and dynamics better. The research endeavor will encompass a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to attain a holistic comprehension of the subject matter.

Data Collection

Data collection for this study will encompass primary and secondary sources. The primary sources contained within this study consist of a collection of historical documents, speeches, and writings originating from the era of the French Revolution, as well as contemporary sources hailing from present-day Pakistan. Secondary sources encompass a range of scholarly materials, such as academic articles, books, and various publications directly relevant to the subject matter under investigation. The collected data will undergo analysis using qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

Data Analysis

In this study, the data gathered will be subjected to analysis employing a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The qualitative data analysis process entails meticulously examining and discerning recurring themes and patterns within the dataset acquired from primary and secondary sources. Quantitative data analysis involves utilizing statistical techniques to examine the data obtained from primary and secondary sources.

Searching Criteria for Research Data;

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("french revolution" OR "pakistan politics") AND PUBYEAR > 2009 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, "final")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE, "j")) OR LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE, "p")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English"))

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the intricate mechanisms underlying political transformation and its subsequent outcomes through a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics, typologies, and ramifications of revolutionary waves witnessed during the French Revolution and contemporary Pakistan.

Revolutionary Waves in the 20th Century

In the 20th century, we witnessed a series of transformative waves that reshaped various aspects of society. These waves, often called revolutionary, brought about significant changes in politics, technology, culture, and social norms. This period was marked by a rapid succession of groundbreaking events and movements that challenged established systems and ushered in new paradigms. To comprehensively examine the case studies of the French Revolution and present-day Pakistan, it is imperative first to establish a comprehensive understanding of the overarching framework of revolutionary waves that transpired throughout the 20th century. Prominent scholars, including Goldstone, Tilly, Markoff, and Katz, have investigated the phenomenon of revolutionary waves throughout modern history. The research conducted by the authors has shed light on the occurrence of multiple waves of revolutions, each exhibiting distinct characteristics and underlying causes.

The French Revolution: A Historical Perspective

The French Revolution, an event of great historical significance, warrants a comprehensive examination from a scholarly perspective. This pivotal period in French history, which unfolded between 1789 and 1799, has captivated the attention of researchers and historians alike. By delving into the multifaceted dimensions of this revolution, one can gain valuable insights into The French Revolution. This significant historical event unfolded between 1789 and 1799 and held a prominent position in the annals of modern history due to its profound impact and far-reaching consequences. The historical period under consideration was marked by a sequence of political, social, and economic disturbances, culminating in the dethronement of the monarchy and the subsequent formation of a republic. The French Revolution is frequently linked to revolutionary waves, given its capacity to inspire and influence revolutionary movements across various regions of Europe.

Political Leadership and Governance during the French Revolution

The subject of inquiry pertains to the intricate dynamics of political leadership and governance during the French Revolution. This seminal period in history witnessed a profound upheaval in the socio-political landscape of France, characterized by the overthrow of the monarchy and the subsequent establishment of a republic. This research explores the multifaceted political

leadership and governance aspects that emerged during this transformative era. By examining primary sources, The period of the French Revolution witnessed substantial changes in the realm of political leadership and governance. The transition from a monarchy to a republican form of government marked a significant shift in societal power dynamics. Notably, this transformation resulted in a transfer of authority from the aristocratic class to the bourgeoisie and the working class. The revolutionaries' primary objective was establishing principles encompassing liberty, equality, and fraternity. However, it is essential to note that this particular period was characterized by a notable degree of political instability, factionalism, and instances of violence.

Present-Day Pakistan: A Contemporary Perspective

This study sheds light on Pakistan's current state of affairs by examining various socio-political, economic, and cultural aspects. Shifting our focus to contemporary Pakistan, it becomes imperative to scrutinize the intricacies of political leadership and governance dynamics within this milieu. Pakistan, a nation that gained independence in 1947, has witnessed several noteworthy political developments, including intermittent democratic governance, military interventions, and persistent political instability. The country has observed successive political movements, demonstrations, and shifts in governance, thereby exemplifying the intricate characteristics inherent in its political milieu.

4.5 Comparative Analysis of Revolutionary Waves in France and Pakistan

This comparative analysis aims to examine and compare the revolutionary waves that occurred in France and Pakistan. By exploring the historical context, causes, and outcomes of these revolutionary movements, this study sheds light on the similarities and differences between the two countries' experiences. The analysis will draw upon primary and secondary sources, including scholarly articles, historical records, and relevant Through a comparative analysis of the French Revolution, a seminal event in European history, and the contemporary socio-political landscape of Pakistan, a nation situated in South Asia, this study aims to elucidate the similarities and disparities in the manifestation and consequences of revolutionary waves. By examining these two distinct contexts, we seek to understand the factors contributing to revolutionary movements' emergence and outcomes. Both historical contexts have experienced significant political turmoil and societal transformation, albeit within distinct contextual frameworks. The French Revolution, an important historical event, was primarily motivated by the influence of Enlightenment ideals and socioeconomic grievances. Conversely, the contemporary political landscape of Pakistan is shaped by a complex interplay of various factors, including regional conflicts, ethnic tensions, and economic challenges.

Implications and Lessons Learned

The implications and lessons learned from the study above are paramount in understanding the broader impact of the research findings. By delving into the implications, we can better understand the potential consequences and effects arising from the observed results. Furthermore, examining revolutionary waves during the French Revolution and contemporary Pakistan offers significant insights into political leadership and governance dynamics. Through a comprehensive analysis of the underlying factors, outcomes, and recurrent

trends associated with revolutionary waves, policymakers and scholars can better comprehend the dynamics of political transformation and its wide-ranging ramifications within society. The present comparative analysis has the potential to provide valuable insights into the development of strategies aimed at promoting effective governance, conflict resolution, and democratic consolidation within countries undergoing political transitions.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, the primary objective of this research paper was to examine and analyze the parallels and distinctions between political leadership and governance in the context of the French Revolution and contemporary Pakistan. The study's findings indicate that certain similarities exist between historical and contemporary contexts. These similarities encompass the involvement of the military in political affairs, the significance of garnering popular support, and the influence exerted by external factors on domestic politics. Nevertheless, it is vital to acknowledge the existence of notable distinctions between these two contexts. These divergences manifest in various aspects, including the intricate interplay between religion and politics, the varying levels of state capacity, and the extent of political polarization. The present study also contributes to the existing literature concerning revolutionary waves. This body of literature posits that revolutions tend to transpire in successive waves, encompassing multiple countries within a relatively condensed timeframe. Moreover, the present study underscores the significance of comprehending the psychological aspects of terrorism and the underlying determinants that foster the genesis of terrorist organizations. This research paper significantly contributes to understanding intricate political leadership and governance dynamics across historical and contemporary settings. It emphasizes the necessity for additional research endeavors in this field.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Achmad Nurmandi and Suswanta from the University of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta supported the research work of this article. The researcher would like to express his immense gratitude to his supporters who have provided all necessary insight and expertise for assistance in this research.

REFERENCES

- Brasted, H., Ahmed, I., & Orakzai, S. B. (2018). Whither Pakistan: The ambivalence of constitutional road mapping? In *Governance and Political Adaptation in Fragile States* (pp. 167–194). Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-90749-9_7
- Cutsinger, B. P., Rouanet, L., & Ingber, J. S. (2023). Assignats or death: The politics and dynamics of hyperinflation in revolutionary France. *European Economic Review*, 157. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2023.104510>
- Gündoğdu, H. G., & Aytakin, A. (2022). EFFECTS OF SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. *Operational Research in Engineering Sciences: Theory and Applications*, 5(2), 117–151. <https://doi.org/10.31181/oresta060722090g>
- Herrero, M. (2023). Carl Schmitt's Political Theology of Revolution. *Open Theology*, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1515/oph-2022-0223>
- Hanley, R. P. (2021). Rousseau's three revolutions. *European Journal of Philosophy*, 29(1), 105–119. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejop.12568>
- Islam, N. (1989). Colonial legacy, administrative reform, and politics: Pakistan 1947-1987. *Public Administration and Development*, 9(3), 271–285. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pad.4230090304>
- Jackson, T. (2022). Revolution and Extinction: The ChronoEconomics of Capitalism. *Critical Historical Studies*, 9(2), 283–306. <https://doi.org/10.1086/721836>
- Jouet, M. (2021). Revolutionary Criminal Punishments: Treason, Mercy, and the American Revolution. *American Journal of Legal History*, 61(2), 139–176. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajlh/njab001>
- Jameel, A., Asif, M., & Hussain, A. (2019). Good governance and public trust: Assessing the mediating effect of E-government in Pakistan. *Lex Localis*, 17(2), 299–320. [https://doi.org/10.4335/17.2.299-320\(2019\)](https://doi.org/10.4335/17.2.299-320(2019))
- Karla, A. (2021). 5. CONTROVERSIAL CHRONOLOGIES: THE TEMPORAL DEMARCATION OF HISTORIC EVENTS. *History and Theory*, 60(1), 134–149. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hith.12197>
- Khan, M. H. (2014). Aid and Governance in Vulnerable States: Bangladesh and Pakistan since 1971. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 656(1), 59–78. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716214543900>

- Lachenicht, S. (2022). Facing Two Revolutions: Contemporaneous German Public Opinions of the American and French Revolutions. *Revue Francaise d'Etudes Americaines*, 173(4), 97-110. <https://doi.org/10.3917/rfea.173.0097>
- Mills, R. J. W. (2021). 'L'île des bannis': Jersey, Britain and the French Emigration 1789-1815. *European Review of History*, 28(1), 99-123. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13507486.2020.1823324>
- Mousavi, M. (2021). France among the Most-Favored Nations: The French Commercial Policy and Influence in Iran (1815-48). *Iranian Studies*, 54(1-2), 143-167. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2020.1760713>
- Newberg, P. R. (2014). Governing Pakistan. *Asian Affairs(UK)*, 41(4), 159-171. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00927678.2014.970925>
- Newberg, P. R. (2014). Governing Pakistan. *Asian Affairs(UK)*, 41(4), 159-171. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00927678.2014.970925>
- Santos, R. R. (2022). Some aspects of the relationship between school and human rights in France in the 18th century. *Educacao e Pesquisa*, 48. <https://doi.org/10.1590/S1678-4634202248252932POR>
- Perovic, S., & Deseure, B. (2022). The Radical Retranslations of the Revolutionary Period: Britain, France, Italy (1789-1815). *Essays in French Literature and Culture*, 59, 21-40. <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85152420817&partnerID=40&md5=41d86d8950383086af98a1094fd514af>
- Samanta, P., Singh, A. K., & Sharma, M. (2022). A Comprehensive Study of the Age of Enlightenment. *Res Militaris*, 12(2). <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85141221900&partnerID=40&md5=9482f63640ed790f0e40d0bfff18a5d0>
- Sulehry, R. S., & Wallace, D. (2023). Identifying the discursive trajectory of social change - a systematic discourse theoretical framework. *Journal of Language and Politics*, 22(2), 245-267. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jlp.22138.sul>
- Siddique, W. (2016). Critical success factors affecting e-government policy implementation in Pakistan. *EJournal of EDemocracy and Open Government*, 8(1), 102-126. <https://doi.org/10.29379/jedem.v8i1.398>
- Wörsdörfer, A. I. (2022). What if? Epidemic discourse and serial narration in the alternate history series *La Révolution* (2020). *French Cultural Studies*, 33(2), 179-195. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09571558211063334>

Wu, X., & Ali, S. (2020). The Novel Changes in Pakistan's Party Politics: Analysis of Causes and Impacts. *Chinese Political Science Review*, 5(4), 513–533.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41111-020-00156-z>