

POLITICAL SCIENCE

WITH DR SVITLANA CHERNYKH



Talking points

COMPREHENSION

1. What are the similarities and differences between the countries in the regions Svitlana is studying?
2. What is the difference between politics and political science?
3. What four factors contributed to post-election protests in Belarus in 2020?
4. How is Svitlana's research different to that of other political scientists?

APPLICATION

5. How could an organisation, such as the United Nations, use Svitlana's research to improve global democracy?
6. If you met Svitlana, what questions would you ask about her research and career journey?

ANALYSIS

7. Why do you think political repression before an election leads to protests after the election?
8. Why do you think changing election rules causes losing parties to reject election results?

EVALUATION

9. Do you think you would participate in a post-election protest? What events or election characteristics would influence your decision to protest?

Activity

Imagine you are a journalist in a fictitious country. The country has recently held an election, in which the winning party received 93% of all votes, and post-election protests are now occurring throughout the country.

Write a news report (for newspaper or TV) to cover the story. Your report should consider the following:

- What is happening? How are people protesting and how is the government reacting to the protests?
- What happened before the election? Did political repression occur?
- Did the party really receive 93% of the vote, or is electoral fraud suspected?
- What do the winning and losing political parties have to say about the election results?
- What is the economic situation in the country, and has this contributed to the protests?
- Have there been any post-election protests in neighbouring countries that may be influencing protests in your country?

More resources

- Read Svitlana and Sam's article for the *Washington Post* about the Belarus post-election protests:
www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/08/25/belarus-protests-erupted-because-these-4-things
- The American Political Science Association has a collection of teaching resources:
www.apsanet.org/programs/teaching-in-political-science