

Une version enregistrée de la synthèse sur ce document se trouve sur le Cahier de Prépa

## INTRODUCTION

Je vous conseille de la rédiger pour éviter de trop hésiter. Mais de ne le faire qu'une fois que votre plan pour la synthèse est arrêté. L'introduction ne présente que la synthèse-compte-rendu du texte, pas votre commentaire qui sera introduit dans un second temps par une phase de transition.

Sur ce type d'exercice elle doit durer 30 s – 45 secondes grand maximum.

Mais elle sera constituée de ces trois étapes :

1/ accroche, introduction du thème général (à partir d'une remarque générale, d'une référence à un / évènement particulier de l'actualité ou à un autre aspect du sujet...)

2/ présentation / contextualisation du document

3/ En donner le point de vue et l'idée clé ou les idées clés (ce qui pourra s'apparenter à une annonce de plan tout en légèreté !)

Voici quelques accroches possibles:

*I could start with a reference to the Watergate, as the epitome of the golden age of journalism:*

1/ The Watergate scandal in 1974 forced President Nixon, who was about to be impeached, to resign / to step down. In exposing corruption, the media did act as the fourth power that can bring down a government (in the most powerful democracy). 2/ As this video report from the London-based news magazine *The Economist* shows, this power is being curtailed and the work of journalists has become harder or almost impossible. 3/ A case in point in the video is India, but it analyses why press freedom is endangered everywhere.

*But I'd rather keep the reference to the Watergate for my commentary*

*Another relevant way to start could be a reference to a recent or current event:*

1/The release, in early August, of Wall-Street Journal reporter Erin Gershkovic, an American citizen who had been wrongly arrested and detained in Russia on suspicion of spying, or the death of journalists in Ukraine and the Gaza strip are reminders of their plight as they do their jobs in conflict zones or authoritarian states. 2/ Yet, the threats to press freedom are more global and can be more insidious as this video report from the London-based news magazine *The Economist* shows. 3/ The reporter aims to investigate how and why press freedom is eroding, focusing, in this passage, mainly on India.

*You could also start by talking about India:*

1/ India, which not long ago prided itself in being the largest democracy, seems to have slid towards an autocratic regime. Civil liberties have been in decline since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014. (Last June's election may have put a stop to that). 2/ In particular, Modi has been referred to as "a predator of press freedom" as this video report from the London-based news magazine *The Economist* highlights. 3/ The international reporter aims to investigate how and why press freedom is eroding, not just in India, around the world.

## LA SYNTHÈSE

Préférez le terme synthèse ou compte-rendu au terme résumé. La synthèse doit être clairement structurée, selon un plan qui va découler de la logique du document : il peut être quasi linéaire ou bien regrouper les éléments autour de plusieurs axes (idéalement 3, 4 maximum).

Je vous invite donc à « improviser » la synthèse à partir de notes non entièrement rédigées mais très claires. Vous pouvez rédiger l'introduction, les phrases de transition d'une partie à l'autre (leur « titre » en quelque sorte) et éventuellement à indiquer les mots de liaison que vous souhaiteriez utiliser.

Voici mes notes manuscrites pour la synthèse sur la video (c'est vilain, mal écrit, mais plus réaliste que des « notes » tapées !) Bien sûr elles découlent de mes notes prises pendant l'écoute.

Difficile de dégager trois parties équilibrées sur cette video. J'ai donc regroupé les éléments de l'introduction et les remarques faites par la journaliste à la fin de l'extrait en une partie (la première)

(Remarque : j'ai oublié de mentionner deux détails de la troisième partie dans l'enregistrement car j'ai accéléré voyant le temps défilier !)

<p><b>INTRO</b> • Release of the journalist + death of journalist in Ukraine Gaza → flight in war zones &amp; attention regimes. But not only! Video report from international news magazines dating back to 2022. The reporter aims to investigate <u>how</u> &amp; <u>why</u> press is eroding around the world, focus on India.</p>		
<p><b>I. A worrying assessment of press freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Video/report introduced by a <u>Black</u> American</li><li>- alarming tone</li><li>- illustrated with disturbing video footage of journalists being arrested/handled violently</li><li>= all-time high nbr. of journalists imprisoned / attached / killed doing their job</li><li>* <u>Not just</u> in authoritarian states</li><li>* Journalist insists this is <u>BTD</u> News - <u>WORRYING</u> for democracies</li><li>of conclusion = she gives a reminder how can we work without media? Hold Accountable Share stories Indispensable "mechanism"</li><li>* <u>SO WHAT?</u> : find out <u>WHY</u> press freedom decline &amp; what can be done?</li></ul>	<p><b>II. A case in point: India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seems to be a chapter in the report.</li><li>• Focuses on RANA MAYUB → info on her of note.</li><li>• <u>Harrowing testimony</u> = lists various forms of intimidation (online abuse / harassment)</li><li>= Uses strong experience to describe what she's going through / FEEL.</li><li>• <u>FROM</u> → Trolls → the govern<sup>t</sup>. Trying to silence her</li><li>• <u>Not</u> an isolated case A <u>PATTERN</u> under Modi's govt. of intimidation BSP "predator of press freedom" → pressure on media organisation.</li></ul>	<p><b>III. But press freedom is under threat everywhere including in democracies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The journalist reminds viewers that India = democracy.</li><li>- press freedom in consti<sup>tu</sup>o</li><li>- shocking to see it in <u>posi<sup>o</sup></u></li><li>• Threat to Press Freedom is a <u>general trend</u> = Press Freedom Index.</li><li>- compiled by RSF</li><li>- general trend presented by director of Int<sup>l</sup> campaign: Rebecca Vincent</li><li>- indicates press freedom has been declining for years.</li><li>- Including in democracies, including in Europe.</li><li>• <u>WHY?</u></li><li>- geopol &amp; issues</li><li>- economic issues</li><li>- during pandemic</li></ul>

## COMMENTAIRE

Pour l'instant, sur ce premier document, je ne veux pas proposer de commentaire. Il devra également être constitué de deux ou trois parties, annoncées en fin de transition. Cette transition (une introduction de la deuxième partie de l'oral en fait) doit soulever une question à laquelle vous essaieriez de répondre).

**lynching**, a form of violence in which a mob, under the pretext of administering justice without trial, executes a presumed offender, often after inflicting torture and corporal mutilation. The term lynch law refers to a self-constituted court that imposes sentence on a person without due process of law. Both terms are derived from the name of Charles Lynch (1736–96), a Virginia planter and justice of the peace who, during the American Revolution, headed an irregular court formed to punish loyalists.

## See also

- *The Economist's* leader (document 2) and video are based on the 2022 Press Freedom Index. Here is today's.

<https://rsf.org/en/index>

Here the global analysis: [https://rsf.org/en/2024-world-press-freedom-index-journalism-under-political-pressure?year=2024&data\\_type=general](https://rsf.org/en/2024-world-press-freedom-index-journalism-under-political-pressure?year=2024&data_type=general)

- This leader from *The Economist* about the results of last June's election in India

[Leaders](#) | The Modi Raj

## A triumph for Indian democracy

The shock election result will change the country—ultimately for the better



image: Justin Metz

The world's biggest electorate has just shown how democracy can rebuke out-of-touch political elites, limit the concentration of power and change a country's destiny. After a decade in charge, Narendra Modi was forecast to win a landslide victory in this year's election; yet on June 4th it became clear that his party had lost its parliamentary majority, forcing him to rule through a coalition. The result partially derails the Modi project to renew India. It will also make politics messier, which has spooked financial markets. And yet it promises to change India for the better. This outcome lowers the risk of the country sliding towards autocracy, buttresses it as a pillar of democracy and, if Mr Modi is willing to adapt, opens a new path to reforms that can sustain its rapid development.

The drama unfolding amid a scorching heatwave begins with the election results. Mr Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) aimed to take up to 370 seats in the 543-member lower house, an even bigger majority than in 2014 or 2019. Instead it won just 240. It lost seats to regional parties in its heartlands in Uttar Pradesh and beyond, reflecting a revival of caste-based politics and, it seems, worries about a lack of jobs. Whereas his coalition partners were previously optional extras, he will now rely on them to stay in power. Their loyalty is not guaranteed.

This is not just an electoral upset, but a repudiation of Mr Modi's doctrine of how to wield power in India. As our new podcast "The Modi Raj" explains, he is a remarkable man, born in poverty, schooled in Hindu-first ideology and consumed by the conviction that he was destined to restore India's greatness. For Mr Modi, India has been kept down by centuries of rule under Islamic dynasties and British imperialists, followed after independence by socialism and the chaos inherent in diversity and federalism.

For over a decade Mr Modi's answer has been to concentrate power. That meant winning elections decisively on a platform that emphasises his own brand, Hindu chauvinism and an aspirational message of rising prosperity. In office, his method has been to use executive might to ram through policies that boost growth and reinforce the BJP's grip on power.

Mr Modi has changed India for good and ill. Fast growth promises to make its economy the world's third-largest by 2027. India has better infrastructure, a new digital welfare system for the poor and growing geopolitical clout. However, good jobs are too scarce, Muslims suffer discrimination and, under a sinister illiberalism, the BJP has captured institutions and persecuted the media and opposition.

This year's election was supposed to mark the next phase of the Modi Raj. With an even larger majority and a new presence in the richer south of the country, the BJP aspired to unitary authority across India at the central and state level. That might have made big-bang reforms easier in, say, agriculture. But such power also raised the threat of autocracy. Many in the BJP hoped to forge a single national identity, based on Hinduism and the Hindi language, and to change India's liberal constitution, which they view as an effete Western construct.

Mr Modi would have reigned supreme. Yet every Raj comes to an end. If, as expected, the BJP and its allies form the next government, Mr Modi will have to chair a cabinet that contains other parties and which faces parliamentary scrutiny. That will come as a shock to a man who has always acted as a chief executive with unchallenged authority to take the big decisions. Succession will be debated, especially inside the BJP. Even if Mr Modi completes a full term, a fourth one is now less likely.

Mr Modi's diminished stature brings dangers. He could resort to Muslim-bashing, as in the past. That would alienate many Indians but might possibly repair his authority with his base and the BJP. Coalition government makes forcing through economic changes harder. The small parties may gum up decision-making as they demand a share of the spoils. India's growth is unlikely to fall below its underlying rate of 6-7%, but higher welfare spending may lead to cuts in vital investment. That explains why the stockmarket initially fell by 6%.

These dangers are real, but they are outweighed by the election's promises. Now that the opposition has been revived, India is less likely to become an autocracy. The BJP and its allies also lack the two-thirds majority they needed to make many constitutional changes. Disappointed investors should remember that most of the value of their assets lies beyond the next five years and that the danger posed by democratic backsliding was not just to Indians' liberty. If strongman rule degenerated into the arbitrary exercise of power, it would eventually destroy the property rights that they depend on.

More open politics also promises to boost growth in the 2030s and beyond. The election shows that Indians are united by a desire for development, not their Hindu identity. Solving India's huge problems, including too few good jobs, requires faster urbanisation and industrialisation, which in turn depend on an overhaul of agriculture, education, internal migration and energy policy. Because the constitution splits responsibility for most of these areas between the central government and the states, the centralisation of the past decade may yield diminishing returns. That means the next set of reforms will require consensus. There are precedents. Two of Mr Modi's main achievements, tax reform and digital welfare, are cross-party ideas that began under previous governments. India has had reforming coalitions before, including bjp-led ones.

### **Modi modified**

The question facing India is therefore whether Mr Modi can evolve from a polarising strongman into a unifying consensus-builder. By doing so, he would ensure that India's government was stable—and he would usher in a new sort of Indian politics, capable of bringing about the reforms needed to ensure India's transformation can continue when the Modi Raj is over. That is what real greatness would look like, for Mr Modi and his country. Fortunately, if he fails, India's democracy is more than capable of holding him to account. ■

Freedom House said civil liberties have been in decline since Mr Modi came to power in 2014, and that India's "fall from the upper ranks of free nations" could have a more damaging effect on the world's democratic standards.