

Department of Political Science, Yale University
Field Examination in Comparative Politics
January 08

INSTRUCTIONS: You should answer 4 questions (each answer comprises one-fourth of the exam grade). The exam has a strict 20 page limit (1.5 space, 12 font). You have 8 hours.

1. How does recent work on political regimes (e.g. Boix, Acemoglu & Robinson) alter the terms of the debate on electoral systems?
2. Do theories of state collapse also explain the emergence of political order? If yes, how? If not, why not?
3. Can bicameralism mitigate collective action problems?
4. Will China become democratic within the next decade? Why or why not?
5. In the more than twenty years since the publication of O'Donnell and Schmitter's *Transitions from authoritarian rule* (1986), many new cases of transition have occurred and older cases have been re-analyzed. In light of both, assess the claims they made. Which stand confirmed? Are there exceptions? Which have not withstood scrutiny? To what extent was their analysis limited by their method?
6. Consider the similarities and differences of the genesis and policies of welfare states of the global South to those of the global North. If the goal is to explain patterns of similarity and difference, is such a comparison sufficient? Or do scholars need a different typology, one that emphasizes differences within the North and within the South at least as much? What is the most adequate typology of welfare states? Justify your answer.
7. To what extent has "globalization" led to a redistribution of wealth within countries? Are there distinct patterns of redistribution; how are they best explained? Justify your answer, being precise what you mean by globalization and advancing evidence in support of your claim.
8. Social dilemmas arise in many settings: were cooperation to occur, all would benefit. After concisely and briefly stating why such failures occur, analyze the various ways in which such dilemmas can be resolved or transformed.