

Department of Political Science, Yale University

Field Examination in Comparative Politics

January 2013

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a closed book, closed notes exam, with access to a clean copy of the reading list only. You are required to answer 3 questions (each answer comprises one-third of the exam grade). The exam has a strict 21 page limit (double-space, 12 font). You have 7 hours.

1. Discuss the relationship between economic development, democratization, and democratic stability. Make sure to examine controversies about those relationships, using cases when possible.
2. What explains the changes in patterns of political corruption, patronage, and clientelism over time and across countries?
3. Examine the relationships between war and political development within countries, using three cases to exemplify some important generalizations.
4. Governments and regimes of all kinds fail. How does our understanding of democratic breakdowns differ from what is known of the end of autocratic regimes? Do all regime changes share some common causes, or is there a fundamental difference in the dynamics of change that depend on which type of regime is at issue?
5. What explains the large amount of cross-country variation we see in the outbreak of civil wars?
6. How much can we learn from natural experiments or field experiments about the major questions in comparative politics? Provide examples from recent work in the field about the prospects and potential limitations of these methods.