

Department of Political Science, Yale University

Field Examination in Comparative Politics

August 2017

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. Interstate war has been argued to strengthen states. Provide a critical review of the literature on the link between war and state-building, and discuss whether we should expect civil war to strengthen states through similar mechanisms.
2. It has been argued that the early and immediate introduction of universal suffrage in India strengthened nation-building but undermined state-building. Discuss this argument in a comparative and theoretical perspective.
3. Political scientists have historically focused mainly on institutional differences among democracies (e.g. presidentialism versus parliamentarianism, electoral systems) and paid less attention to institutional differences among non-democracies. Discuss how institutional differences affect political decisions in democracies and non-democracies, and assess whether the importance of these differences varies by regime type.
4. Discuss: ethnic divisions hamper collective action and development.
5. What is populism, its causes and effects? What we know and don't about it?
6. Scholars disagree strongly about the role of social classes in democratization. Is the central protagonist the middle class, the bourgeoisie, merchants, peasants, or sectors of the *ancien regime* themselves? What are the theoretical disputes, and which theory do you find most convincing? How would you apply this theory to cases, recent or historical, of democratization?