

International Relations Field Exam, August 2008

Answer a total of three questions. You may answer one from each Part, OR two from A and one from either B or C.

Part A

- 1) The problem of deterrence is especially important in international relations. Why is it so central to IR? How have scholars tried to explain its success and failure? What models have they used, and what evidence have they brought to bear? Evaluate the advantages and limitations of various models derived from the assumption of rational behavior.**
- 2) Using a levels of analysis framework classify theories of war in international relations. What advantages and disadvantages do theories operating at different levels of analysis have? What are the prospects of a unified theory of war and what would its contours look like? Consider both theory and evidence.**
- 3) Much writing--on IR in general, on international institutions, and in IPE--debates the reasons why hegemony may exist, continue, or decay. Discuss this material, and its relationship to basic theories about power, economic behavior (for example, collective goods theory), and norms and ideas. What would constitute evidence to test some key hypotheses?**

Part B

- 4) Are military victories the most stable outcome of civil wars? Or can civil wars lead to stable peace through negotiated settlements? Clearly define what you mean by peacebuilding. Discuss theoretical arguments on the stability of victories as compared to settlements and review the empirical literature with attention to the data and methodological issues that arise in the study of civil war termination.**
- 5) Is territorial partition successful in ending violent ethnic conflict? Identify and discuss premises and assumptions of theoretical arguments in favor of partition as a solution to ethnic war. Critically review the empirical record on the effectiveness of partitions and discuss normative implications of both pro-partition and anti-partition arguments.**

Part C

- 6) Construct as persuasive argument as you can that electoral incentives are the most important factor in explaining variation among democracies in international financial policies such as the exchange rate regime and capital controls that a country adopts. Critically evaluate the argument including a comparison with alternative explanations in the literature.**
- 7) What has been the effect, if any, of the GATT/WTO on the trade policies of states during the second half of the twentieth century?
What are the fundamental principles of this international institution? How does it work in practice? How closely does the GATT/WTO match the functions of the various theoretical arguments in the literature about how institutions influence national policymaking? What are the empirical strategies necessary for demonstrating an effect of this institution on policymaking given that states may choose to join or set up such an institution precisely when they intend to liberalize?**