

International Relations Field Exam

August 2024

Please answer three questions in total. Keep in mind that you will be evaluated not only on your knowledge of the relevant literature, but also on your ability to think independently and make a compelling argument.

Section I:

1. Discuss the following statement: “Theories of war based on domestic political dynamics have a poor empirical track record.” In your answer, discuss one of the following cases: the Fashoda Crisis of 1898, the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.
2. Discuss the following statement: “China’s recent nuclear buildup disproves the Theory of the Nuclear Revolution, showing that security competition is the same in the nuclear age as it was in the pre-nuclear age.”

Section II:

1. Certain characteristics of firms and sectors make them more likely to receive favorable trade policy. What are these characteristics, and how robust is the evidence supporting their influence?
2. International relations scholars have long debated the concept of the "democratic advantage" in sovereign finance. What does this concept entail, and to what extent is it supported by empirical evidence?