

Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Democracy

Final Examination

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Here is the final examination for this course. We have come a long way from the middle of August. We have talked a lot about the causes of ethnic conflict in democracies. Here is your chance to show me some of what you have learned.

Examination:

We have examined many factors relevant in the probability that an ethnic group will become violent. We have also had some practice in creating hypotheses and operationalizations of those hypotheses. Finally, we have had much practice in researching what other researchers have found about the effects of those factors.

This is your task: Choose the five most important factors in determining the probability that an ethnic group will become violent. For each factor, write a scientific hypothesis relating that hypothesis to the probability of an ethnic group resorting to violence. Next, operationalize each hypothesis. Be extremely specific about how you will measure the factor. Next, find an example of an ethnic group (and its state) that became violent, at least in part, because of this factor. Finally, find five research articles relating your factor to ethnic conflict.

Example:

Factor: Average height

Hypothesis: Taller ethnic groups have a higher probability of resorting to violence.

Operationalization: The height of an ethnic group will be measured using the mean height of a member of that ethnic group.

Group Example: Basques in Spain

Articles:

- Aguilera, Christina. 2002. "Blonde Ambition and Ethnic Conflict in Mulan." *The Disney Journal of Ethnic Conflict* 2(Summer): 450 – 467.
- Lopez, Jennifer L. 2003. "No Me Ames: Conflicto con los Vascos en España." *Diario de Estudios Españoles* 45(March): 120 – 143.
- Lopez, Jennifer L. 2005. "Con el Amor de una Mujer Zapatista: El Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional en Chiapas." *Diario de Estudios Españoles* 47(March): 98 – 112.
- Spears, Britney. 2006. "High Times in Ethnic Conflict." *Journal of Recovery, Addiction, and Musicology* 34(June): 34 – 65.
- Spears, Britney. 2007. "The Buganda and Basketball: Slamming High Times." *Journal of Sports Violence* 5(January): 190 – 215.

What I will be grading:

- I must agree that the five factors you chose are five important factors. (The example provided fails on this count; height is not an important factor in ethnic conflict. Furthermore, I actually think the Basques are shorter, on average, than the Spanish.)
- Your hypotheses must be directional: 'As Factor X increases/decreases [choose one only], the probability of ethnic conflict increases'; or 'Ethnic groups with more/less [choose one only] Factor Z have a higher probability of resorting to violence.'
- Your operationalization must show that your variable is measurable *in a scientific sense*. Thus, the average height of the ethnic group's members is measurable, even if no one will go out there and measure the height of every member of the ethnic group. I know exactly how to measure the height of a member of the ethnic group and how to find the mean of those heights. If you have doubts that I will think the variable is measurable, please explain exactly what you mean: convince me that it is measurable. Here, it is better to err on the side of too much explanation, rather than too little.
- I will check that the ethnic group actually exhibited ethnic violence because of this factor.
- I will also check your five references that they actually discuss the factor. If the reference obliquely refers to the factor, it will not be counted. There must be significant discussion of the factor in each reference you provide. I will grade the correctness of your formatting of the reference list. If you forget how to do this, download and read the reference list document linked on the course website, which you should have already done.
- Finally, I will be checking spelling, grammar, and style. Make sure the structure of each of your five factors mirrors the structure I provide in the example above.

Turning it in:

You will email your examination to me as an attachment in one of the following three formats: Adobe portable document format (.pdf), Microsoft document (.doc), or rich text format (.rtf). Every word processor of any import in the Western world can save in .rtf. If you have WordPerfect, save in .rtf or .pdf. If you have MS Word 2007, save in .rtf or .doc; *do not save in .docx*. If you use Open Office, save in .doc or .rtf.

This examination is due in my mailbox at 11:40am on Friday, December 14, 2007. Failure to get your examination to me in the appropriate format by the due time will result in a failure for the examination. I will acknowledge when I receive your examination.

My email address is OleForsberg@creighton.edu

If you run into an emergency, my cell phone number is (865) 405-0751. This is an east Tennessee number. I do not guarantee I will answer, so leave a message if I do not.

Extra Credit:

Should I receive your examination by 11:59pm on Sunday, December 9, 2007, you will receive five extra credit points, and you will be able to receive your results by 8:00am, Tuesday, December 11, 2007.