

# Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Democracy

The First Examination: Review and Expectations

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Your first examination for the course is coming up soon. When faced with one's first examination in a course, the usual questions focus on the structure of the examination and the material covered. This document should answer these questions.

The examination will take place over a period of three days. The first day will consist of fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The second day will consist of a single essay question. On that third day, you will receive the final task, which you will complete at home (or the library).

## Material Covered in this Examination

This is easy. You have access to the PowerPoint presentations, the text book, the supplemental readings, and my ramblings during class. Any material from any of these sources could find its way onto the examination. Hopefully by now you have discovered that what we discuss in class is not merely a rehash of the readings assigned.

## First Examination, Day One

**50 points**

On the first day of the examination, you will ***bring in a single blue book with your name on it.*** The section of the examination you complete during the first day will be worth a total of 50 points. You will have the entire class period to complete the examination, but you will *probably* require less time than that.

*The first section* will be standard fill-in-the-blank. This section objectively tests your ability to use the vocabulary of the discipline in appropriate ways. It also tests your basic grasp of facts surrounding the case studies (and theories) we have studied so far in the course. A word bank *will be* provided. This should aid you in focusing on the concepts examined.

*Example:* President Dzhokhar Dudaev, who led his proto-state in a civil war against \_\_\_\_\_, was assassinated by two laser-guided missiles while using his satellite telephone. Upon his death, the character of the conflict changed from a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ conflict to an ideological conflict.

*Example:* Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave, has been agitating for independence from its surrounding state of \_\_\_\_\_ since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Because they essentially won their civil war, they have declared independence from their containing state. However, no state recognizes their de jure independence—not even Armenia.

*Example:* There are two theories of statehood. The \_\_\_\_\_ Theory of Statehood holds that the state receives personhood in international law if (and only if) it is recognized by other states as being a state. The Declarative Theory of Statehood holds that a proto-state becomes a state when it meets four specific criteria. Currently, international law and the associated treaties, organizations, and judiciary branches recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ Theory as being the applicable one.

*The second section* is multiple-choice. This section tests your ability to recall facts about the theories of ethnic conflict and about the ethnic conflicts in the world. This section will include ‘choose which does **not** belong’ statements as well as the standard questions.

*Example:* Which of the following is **not** one of the bases of ethnicity according to Anthony Smith’s theory of ethnic identity formation?

- Attachment to a specific ancestral homeland
- Belief in common ancestry
- History of autonomy
- Shared cultural attributes

*Example:* What does ‘de jure’ mean?

- Daily
- In fact
- In law
- Of fact

*Example:* President Rajapakse was elected in the fall of 2005. This is noteworthy because he ran as a hardliner who believed that the military and national police force could root out the quiescent ethnic insurgency along the north and the east in his state. Unfortunately, his decision caused the LTTE rebellion to increase dramatically in intensity. Rajapaske is the president of which state?

- Indian Kashmir
- Nigeria
- Sri Lanka
- Turkey

*Example:* After a successful coup, General al-Bashir seized power and joined forces with the National Islamic Front. During his rule, circumstances forced him to cede territorial control in the south of his state to an autonomous region of Christians and Animists, and the international community accused him of perpetrating genocide against his own people. Despite these events, he holds strong control over the north of his state, where he implemented sharia law. Which state does he rule?

- Chad
- Nigeria
- Somalia
- Sudan

*Example:* The United States National Security Strategy (NSS), released in September 2002, made “expand[ing] the circle of development by opening societies and building the infrastructure of democracy” a central plank of America’s response to the 9/11 attacks. Part of the administration’s security policy would be to “help build police forces, court systems, and legal codes, local and provincial government institutions, and electoral systems.” The overarching goal, according to Logan and Preble (2006), was to “make the world not just safer but better.” George W. Bush proposed, promoted, and pursued this NSS for the majority of his term in office. Why? What was this new strategy supposed to fix?

- Autocratic regimes
- Fading in the coalition against Iraq
- Failed states
- Lack of US foreign policy

*The third section* is the short answer section. It allows you to demonstrate your knowledge about more theoretical aspects to ethnic conflict in greater detail than merely supplying a word or a checkmark.

*Example: Vignette:* In 1986, the president of Hiwunda began to greatly mismanage the economy of his completely peaceful African state. As a typical African president, reelection was practically guaranteed. However, an opposition leader rose up against President M'BwanDa. To keep his power, the president decided to vilify his opponent and his followers. President M'BwanDa passed several laws against the BeWunda tribe, to which opposition leader Asho T'WingDa belonged. These laws eliminated the BeWunda tribe's ability to own land and vote in any elections. Predictably, the draconian laws fanned the flames of revolt in Hiwunda. Soon, civil war broke out between the BeWunda tribe, and their associates, and the president's HiBonga tribe, and its associates. Soon, every resident of Hiwunda joined either the BeWunda or the HiBonga in the civil war.

*Question:* Use the above vignette to support each of the three theories of ethnic identity formation, separately. Also, which of the three is best supported by this vignette? Your answer should be in four separate paragraphs: one for each of the three theories of ethnic identity and one for which one is best supported by the vignette.

*Example:* One of the theorized causes of ethnic conflict is Gurr's Relative Deprivation Theory. Explain it in such detail that I know you know what you are talking about. Use examples of ethnic groups discussed in the class or in your paper.

*Example:* One of the perennial issues in the study of ethnic conflict is determining under what conditions nationalist secession is morally correct. One of the major writers in this area is Heraclides. He proposed four requirements for a secessionist movement to be morally justified. These four requirements could be succinctly summarized as nationhood and alien domination. What were his four necessary conditions?

## **First Examination, Day Two**

**25 points**

On the second day, I will hand back the blue book you gave to me during the last class period. Your essay questions will be on your blue book. Here, you have the opportunity to answer questions in more detail, using more facts and theories. You will be given the remainder of the class period to write your essay questions. The maximum length is one filled blue book of legible (to me) writing.

Some Interesting Possible Essay Questions (although not all possible ones):

1. The first four case studies done in the class concerned ethnic conflict in Canada, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, and Turkey. Each of the four is a democracy. However, the responses of the ethnic groups were very different. What is responsible for this difference?
2. Both Somalia and Nigeria have suffered from being failed states throughout much of their histories as independent states. However, Somalia has no real government, while Nigeria does. What factors are responsible for this difference?
3. In each of the cases of ethnic conflict we have examined, there is an ethnic group declaring that they have the right to secede from the containing state. They declare that there exists a right to national self-determination. From where does this right come? Is it an absolute right? Are there limits to that right? Is it even a right at all?

4. Failed states are one of the greatest current threats to international peace. What does this statement actually mean, and what does it assume?
5. There are four techniques used by third parties in ethnic conflicts designed to decrease the level of violence. Pick an ongoing ethnic struggle against a democracy and compare the effectiveness of each of the four and the fifth option of doing nothing.
6. Compare and contrast the three theories of ethnic identity formation. Make sure you explicate each of the three fully, provide clear examples from the real world that illuminate the three, and explain the major differences between the three.
7. There a moral right for nations to secede from their containing state. Either agree or disagree with this statement and argue your position. Make sure that you lay out a logical argument and use facts that clearly support your position.
8. Some Political Scientists support Moral Hazard theory, while others do not. Explain Moral Hazard theory, using examples from ethnic conflict. Finally, explain the recent (December 30, 2006) bombing of Madrid's Barajas International Airport by ETA terrorists in terms of Moral Hazard theory.

### **First Examination, Day Three**

**25 points**

When you hand in your essay question on Day 2, you will also pick up the take home section of this examination. On this, I expect you to take your time and write a well crafted answer, using facts from real life, theories discussed in class, and your evaluation of those theories. Expect this section to place you in the role of a decision-maker in the US government. Your duty will be to make a decision as to the future conflict path of the group in question. Actually, it will be a lot like the Legoland Activity we had during class, only the state and group(s) will be different (and not silly sounding).

Make sure you use both theory and fact to back up your answer.