

Columbia University Department of Political Science
Written Qualifying Examination in International Relations

August 28, 2017

World Politics A

1a. Discuss two theories of change in international relations, one of them having the cause of change appearing unexplained from outside the logic of the theory (exogenously) and the other having the cause of change emerging from inside the logic of the theory (endogenously). Evaluate the benefits and limitations of these two kinds of theories of change.

2a. "Morality in international politics is not simply a matter of civilized traditions, but is equally the result of security. This is the vicious circle of power politics: morality is the fruit of security, but lasting security between many Powers depends on their observing a certain common standard of morality." (Martin Wight, *Power Politics*, 1946). Discuss.

World Politics B

1b. During periods characterized by widespread anti-internationalism and domestic populism, there is little evidence that international law influences the decision making of states and governments in the conduct of international affairs. Discuss this statement drawing upon relevant theories, and referencing at least two specific examples from the current or earlier eras.

2b. After the Cold War, current events pushed political scientists, including IR scholars, to study ethnic "nationalism." More recently, current events have pushed IR scholars to study "nationalism" in great powers. In what ways are these two phenomena conceptually similar and in what ways are they different or even incommensurable? Did theoretical developments and research findings about ethnic nationalism yield insights that have helped illuminate more recent great-power nationalism, or were different concepts needed?

3b. Most scholars of the just war tradition argue that *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* should be independent judgments. After explaining the best case for their independence, describe a situation in which the separation is not held to be justified by just war scholars and then defend or criticize their arguments for *interdependence* in that case.

4b. What is the relationship between democracy and terrorism? Be sure to define your terms.

5b. Diplomats stress the great value of secrecy in conducting negotiations, but the audience cost and other literatures argue for the bargaining advantages of taking a public position. How can we explain this discrepancy? Is one group right and the other wrong?

IPE

1ipe. What purposes do international organizations serve in international relations, if any? How can we know? That is, what kinds of evidence could be brought to bear to study this question and what challenges would it have to overcome? What existing evidence do you find most convincing?

2ipe. Although the flow of goods and services is highly institutionalized at the multilateral and bilateral levels, the movement of people is mostly regulated at the national level. What explains the varying levels of regulation for international trade and immigration? Why do international regimes governing cross-border flows vary so much by issue area? How do recent elections in western democracies support or challenge your answers to the prior two questions?

Security

1is. Is “accidental” war a real problem?

2is. What wins wars: economic power and resources, military operational effectiveness, or strength of motivation?