Concept Review for Final Examination Spring 2008

Note: the final exam will be exactly the same format as the midterm.

Lecture Concepts (drawn from lecture slides and lecture readings)

_Borders and Territoriality in the Post-Cold War World_

Border, frontier, and borderland – definitions
Borders as institutions, borders as processes
Disconnected between ethnic and nation-state borders in Africa
Hypothetica – 8 complications arising from borders and territoriality
Examples linked to the Hypothetica complications – Kurds, water rights in Central Asia, etc.

_Theories of Nationalism_

Nation, nation-state, and nationalism – definitions
Cultural vs. political nationalism
Three main political goals of all nationalist movements
National identity as exclusionary and inclusive (_jus sanguinis_ vs. _jus soli_)
Establishing and consolidating a nation-state

_Applications of Nationalist Theories_

Nationalism at a range of scales: the sub-state, the state, and the supra-state
Banal nationalism – definition and examples
5 geographic solutions to nationalist conflicts
The endurance of nationalism – why nationalism is here to stay

_The Local and Regional Challenge to the Nation_

The two-scale (sub- and supra-state) challenge to the nation-state
The emergence of regional economies as a challenge to the nation-state – four observations
Cascadia as a regional economy – how is it simultaneously challenging and reproducing ideas associated with the nation-state?

Global apartheid and the rise of geographic inequality

Gated communities as local-scale political units

Glocalization – definition

*Globalization and its Territorial Effects*

Geographic definition of globalization

Two global geographic challenges to the nation-state: supra-states and world cities

The EU as an example of a supra-state – three conceptions

Managing migration and protection from the ‘other’

World Cities as nodes of economic interaction – hybrid of the ‘space of flows’ and the ‘space of places’

*US Hegemony and Democracy*

Note: The first part of this lecture was a wrap-up of our discussion of globalization

Three main roadblocks to globalization

Five trends in support of the continued relevance of the nation-state

*Now on to empire and democracy…*

Power and geographic organization (strong and weak geographies and soft and hard power)

The American position in the post-Cold War era

7 potential costs of empire

Formal and illiberal democracy compared

Expanding the zones of democracy into the post-Soviet space

*Globalization and Uneven Development*

The promotion of democracy as America’s imperial project

How is globalization geographic? → rescaling
The gini coefficient as a measure of inequality

Is globalization good for everyone? Inequality and poverty

The spatiality of poverty reduction – the influence of China

*The Political Geography of Civil Wars*

Interstate and civil wars compared – loss of life

Characteristics of civil wars

5 false assumptions regarding civil wars

The two developments and the associated corollary in the post-Cold War world

Connection between civil war and poverty and civil wars and natural resources

The 5 key conclusions about civil wars

*Quasi-States as a New Political Geography*

The two forms of sovereignty – definitions and association with quasi- and failed states

Solutions to the quasi-state conundrum – 4 possibilities

5 characteristics supporting the continued existence of quasi-states

*Failed States as (A)nother New Political Geography*

Role of borders in exacerbating state failure

Explaining the emergence of failed states (monopoly of violence) and other factors leading to state failure

The taxonomy of failed states: five types (note: focus on the details for captured and misconceived states)

Consequences, both domestic and international, of state failure

*The Political Geography of Genocide*

America and the Genocide Convention

Connection between state failure and genocide

How is genocide geographic? → purifying the state
The scalar approach to understanding genocide. How can it be interpreted at the local, national and global scales?

**Feminist Geopolitics**

The ‘anti-geopolitical eye’

Feminist geopolitics: the personal is the political, human security vs. national security

The body as a geopolitical site – uneven topographies of the individual

**Non-Western Geopolitics**

Geographic knowledge as think and thin

Containment, engagement or constraint? Approaches to China

The orientalist critique of the western production of knowledge

**Chaos and Cosmos in the World System**

Religious wars and the renewal of cultural conflict

International organizations and the prosecution of and protection from conflict

Peacekeeping as a solution to civil war

Themes of the course (you don’t have to know these, but they will give you an idea of what are the key ideas to focus on)

**Recitation Concepts (not covered in lecture)**

*Week 8 – Newman*

The securitization of border zones as an example of border processes and institutions

Relevance of individual experiences of a local border to geopolitics

*Week 9 – Hobsbawm*

Invented traditions as justification for the nation-state → formalization and ritualization

*Week 10 – Friedman*

‘The playing field is being leveled’ – a geographic critique of this statement

Characteristics of globalizations 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0
Week 11 – Kaplan

Consequences of urbanization in contemporary political environments

Are maps accurate reflections of political realities?

Week 12 – O’Loughlin

The key characteristic of the Bush Doctrine

What are the special problems of states with two large ethnic groups? Why are wars here so intractable? Provide two relevant examples.

Week 13 – Power

Is Darfur an example of genocide? Arguments for and against

Week 14 – Kaplan

Cooperative Security Locations – relevance in the current politico-military order?

The role of the “expert” in Kaplan’s writing