Sample Questions and Answers for Final Examination Spring 2008

As per the midterm, the exam will be divided into two sections. The first section will be short response, where you will have to briefly address a single concept from the review sheet. Expect to have to answer six of these questions. This section will be worth thirty-six points. Also, please see a sample response below. The second section will require longer responses, and will ask you to synthesize two or more of the concepts listed on the review sheet. You will be asked to answer four of these questions on the test. This section will be worth sixty-four points.

Sample Questions – Short Answer

There are four possible solutions for resolving the currently unresolved status of quasi-states. Name three (3) of the four (4); this list should include and identify the preferred solution of the international community.

Sample Answer:

Three possible solutions to the unresolved status of quasi-states are:
1) Inclusion in the external patron state.
2) Independence
3) Inclusion in the parent state as a separate entity, usually in a federal model.

Solution #3 is viewed by the international community as the optimal solution to the issue of quasi-states.

Sample Questions – Long Answer

According to the Hypothetica model, there are eight complications for the state associated with borders and territoriality. Name five (5), and explicitly connect the identified complications to real-world examples.

Sample Answer:

The Hypothetica model presents a number of complications for the state that are associated with its geographical position in the interstate system.

Five specific problems, with relevant examples, are:
1) When a unified ethnic group spans a border across states, although this group lacks its own nation-state in the interstate system. An example of this situation is the Kurds in Iraq (as well as Turkey, Iran, Armenia and Syria).
2) An internal nationalist separatist movement. An example of this process is the Quebecois in Canada.
3) The presence of resources close to or spanning the interstate border. Oil resources in the Middle East, specifically between Iraq and Kuwait, as well as water resources among the states of Central Asia, are representative of this condition.
4) Landlocked countries. These are often among the poorest countries due to the difficult of transporting goods and products overland. An example of a landlocked country is Paraguay.

5) Ethnic spillover, or when an ethnic group that is dominant in a bordering nation-state also has a substantial (though certainly a minority) presence in a bordering state. One of the most relevant examples of this point that we discussed was the presence of Kosovars (Albanians) in Serbia, which has now changed into a situation where there is a significant Serb minority in independent Kosovo.