

Economics Tripos Part IIB Paper 5 Political Economics

Paper 5: Part 2B **Supervision assignment 8** Lent

Course: Political Economics.

Topics: Revolutions, diversity and conflict

Material covered by: Week 8.

Suggested for marking: question 2.

Question 1.

1. Use Kuran's theory to evaluate how the following factors contribute to a revolution:

- (a) years of economic mis-management.
- (b) the twitter hashtag "We are all Khaled Said" goes viral.¹
- (c) a youth bulge creates unemployment and discontent amongst the young.

Question 2

2. (a) Explain why it is polarization rather than fractionalisation that makes a society prone to conflict.
- (b) Evaluate critically the empirical evidence on the relationship between polarization, fractionalization and conflict, making a distinction between conflict incidence and conflict duration.

References

Kuran, Timur. "Sparks and Prairie Fires: A Theory of Unanticipated Political Revolution." *Public Choice* 61, no. 1 (1989): 41-74.

Alesina, Alberto and Eliana La Ferrara (2005). Ethnic Diversity and Economic Performance. *Journal of Economic Literature* 43 721-61.

¹ Khaled Mohamed Saeed was a young Egyptian man whose death under police custody in the Sidi Gaber area of Alexandria on 6 June 2010 helped incite the "Egyptian Revolution of 2011".

Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler (2004) Greed and Grievance in Civil War, Oxford Economic Papers 56, 563-595.

Ebrahim Elbadawi and Nick Sambanis, (2000), "Why are there so many civil wars in Africa? Understanding and preventing violent conflict", Journal of African Economies, 9 (3): 244-269

Esteban, Joan and Debraj Ray, 2016, Conflict and Development, October 2016, forthcoming, Annual Reviews of Economics.: <http://www.econ.nyu.edu/user/debraj/>

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. (2003) Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. American Political Science Review, 97(1): 75-90.

Montalvo, Jose G. and Marta Reynal-Querol (2005) Ethnic polarization, potential conflict and civil war. American Economic Review, 95, 796-816.