Review Sheet, Second Midterm Exam, GOV 312L: U.S. Foreign Policy

**Module 9: The Versailles Treaty to Origins of the Cold War**

*1. How did the Versailles Treaty, particularly the harsh terms imposed on Germany, contribute to World War II?* France demands of harsh peace for Germany (to preserve league of nations), German lost military cap, empire, German people tried to punish democratic government imposed on it (conservative and nationalist forces), reparations

*2. How did American capital play an important role in keeping the reparations system afloat and the withdrawal of American capital contribute to the end of German reparation payments? America gave loans to Germans,* France and britian asked for more reparations -> bankrupt Germany

*3. How did American policies contribute to the Great Depression?* Quit loaning money to British, French, Germans; tight monetary policy increased interest rates, smoot-Hawley (high tariffs), FDR takes us off gold standard11

*What were the political consequences of the Great Depression and how did they contribute to World War II?* US withdrawal from Europe

*4. How did FDR get around an isolationist Congress and support the Allied powers (particularly the British war effort) against Germany?* Economic aid

*5. Why did wartime cooperation between the United States and Soviet Union so quickly collapse after World War II?* Paranoid Stalin, He wanted territory, not UN, Soviet Union kept army in Europe

**Module 10: The Cold War**

*1. How did George Kennan view the Soviet threat?1. Persistent antagonistic* 2. Special threat: SU did not want war, patient, expansionary but cautious

*How did Kennan’s definition of the Soviet threat naturally give rise to the containment strategy?* Marxism and Leninism demonized US, authoritarian systems required external enemy, He argued that we cannot defeat the soviets militarily in the foreseeable future-> wear down SU

*2. What were the causes and implications of the Truman Doctrine?* Civil war in Greece, Communists in Yugoslavia, European Communist parties in France and Italy->US is the new Hegemon (economy), Domino Theory

*3. Why did the United States adopt the Marshall Plan? Build West and incorporate East into American led economy*

*What were the policy’s goals and how did the policy play to American strengths and contribute to American prosperity? Better markets means more money*

*What other early Cold War crises led to a militarization of containment?*

*4. What is the German security problem?* Politically United Germany is threatening neighbors and is threatened (causes them to want buffer states)

*What was the American solution to this problem?* Partition, Occupy, Democracize, integrate

*What was the Soviet solution?* Partition, Occupy, Communize, integrate

*How was the German problem aggravated by Eisenhower’s willingness to rearm Germany, potentially with nuclear weapons?* Eisenhower wanted multilateralism. , kennedy then agreed to prevent nukes in W. Germany and China

*Why was Berlin such an important signal of American commitment to protect Western Europe*

*from Soviet aggression?* If we let Berlin go, It would show that America is not commited to the rest of Europe, preserve western alliance

*5. Why was containment so much more difficult in the Third World than it was in Europe?* West is seen as imperialists, supported authoritarian regimes, Different Pol, Cult, and Historical Ties, Don’t see Soviets as a threat

*6. What is the case for an important role of Reagan foreign policy in the end of the Cold War?* Partisan divide, Strategic Defense Initiative, Evil Empire, Reagan Doctrine

*How did the foreign policy regarding the Soviet Union differ in Reagan’s first term and his second term?* Was anti Soviet (confrontation), then more optimistic (negotiation)

*7. How did Gorbachev’s foreign policy (his “New Thinking”) differ from classic Soviet foreign policy?* Ending Hegemony in East Europe (end of Sphere of Influence)

*How did Gorbachev’s refusal to use force to sustain communist rule in Eastern Europe contribute to the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union?* Sinatra Doctrine ending Brezhnev Doctrine

**Module 11: Violence and the International Political Order**

*1. What is politics (as defined in lecture)?* Coordinating and directing lots of people, social, Authority to allocate scarce resources

*What are the two central components of this definition?* Presence of authority, ( legimate coercion ), allocation of scarce resources

*2. How does violence shape political order?* Threatening jail to pay taxes

*Give an example of how the use of coercion by a legitimate authority helps to establish political order.*Taxes, 6th street at 4 AM

*3. What is the central dilemma of the use of force to establish political order in domestic politics?* Strong Governments may use their priveledge for their own gain

*How does this same dilemma frame the problem of war and political order in the international order?*How do you legitimate more military presence, how can you assure everyone you won’t rewrite the rules

*4. How did the U.S. address the central dilemma of the use of force in the international realm after World War II?* Be constrained by Nato, and democracy

*What role did international organizations play in constraining U.S. military power?*

*5. According to Ikenberry (cited in lecture), why was the 2003 invasion of Iraq so problematic for the constraint of U.S. military power?* We went in unilaterally without defining an enemy

*6. How does realism (none), idealism (yes), and pacifism (yes) each view the role of morality in war?*

*What are the requirements of Just War theory (idealism) within its three realms (jus ad bellum – just resort (initiation) to war (meet 6 requirements); jus in bello (no civilians, proportionality) – just conduct of war; and jus post bellum (No raping) – just aftermath of war)?*

*7. For Crawford, what sort of transformations in war have made Just War theory more problematic in the context of terrorism?* No definitive beginning and end, random attacks

*What perennial and novel concerns does terrorism raise about Just War theory?*

**Module 12: Great Powers, the United States, and the International Political Order**

*1. How do great powers structure international politics after great power wars like World War I and World War II?* Spread of democracy, new collective security organizations

*Describe the main changes in the international system that occur in the aftermath of these wars and the peace settlement that follows.*

*2. What were the main pillars of the peace settlement after World War I?* Weaken Germany, atlantic charter

*How did President Woodrow Wilson influence the international system in 1919?* League of nations

*3. What were the main elements of the peace settlement after World War II and how did the United States influence the political order after 1945?* UN

*4. How was the Cold War similar to a great power conflict and how did the end of the Cold War resemble a peace settlement following a great power war?* Was a great power conflict, territorial change, regime change, redistribution of military power (unipolar), change in enforcement mechanisms (Warsaw Pact collapsed, Nato expanded)

*5. What explains the absence of great power war since the mid-20th century?* Nukes, territory does not matter in modern economy because of specialization, war is not worth it

*6. Summarize the arguments made by Pavlovsky.*

*What are some of weaknesses of the Russian state (or government) under Putin’s leadership?*

*How do these weaknesses complicate policymaking in Russia?*

*How does Russian support of Ukrainian separatists illustrate these policymaking challenges?*  The separatists shot down a plane

*7. Summarize the arguments made by Lukyanov.* Nato and Buffer states *How do they illustrate the destabilizing consequences of shifts in the distribution of power among great powers?*

**Module 13: Civil War and the Challenges of Intervention**

*1. How did the peaceful end of the Cold War lead to more civil wars in the Third World?* Lack of support for authoritarian regimes

*2. Why do states fail to come to a peace settlement even though it will make all parties better off than if they continue fighting?* Uncertainty of distribution of military power can lead to war because of overestimation, peace deals may not be sustainable

*What is the role of private information and overestimation of one side’s bargaining leverage?*

*3. What is the commitment problem and how does it contribute to continuation of conflict?* Peace in 2020 is guaranteed up to 2025, shifts in distribution of power

*What are the sources of the commitment problem?* Withdrawal of cold war support

*4. How is civil war different from international war?* Ethnic imbalances, minority groups want to secede, wealth/power inequality

*What dilemmas associated with the commitment problem arise from the need for one side to disarm in a civil war?* What guarantees the opposition not killing them.

*How can intervention from a third party (like the United States) help to resolve the commitment problem?* Guarantees safety

*5. What is the moral hazard problem?* More civilians will die if a 3rd party is involved

*How can this concept help to explain how the prospect of intervention from a third party (like the United States) might actually increase incentives to leave civilian populations vulnerable to attack and genocide?*

*6. How do the articles by Simon and Stevenson (restraint, offshore balancing, pullback) and Byman (terrorism are actually participating in a civil war, more intervention before a civil war occurs) differ in their approach to the problem of US military intervention in civil wars?*

**Module 14: Nuclear Weapons and U.S. Foreign Policy**

*1. What is deterrence?* Issuing credible threats of punishment to refrain from acting in a certain way

*What are the main elements of deterrence?*

*How is deterrence different from defense?* Nukes are too destructive, physically preventing actions

*2. What is mutually assured destruction (MAD)?* If you nuke us, we nuke you, each side has 2nd strike capability

*What is a second-strike capability and why is it essential to mutually assured destruction?* After being nuked, we will be able to nuke back

*3. What is the problem of credibility in nuclear deterrence?* Paradox, horrible weapons -> no one uses them, capability to follow through, have the resolve to carry it out, using nukes to protect allies

*Explain why the effectiveness of deterrent threats depends on credibility. How does a state demonstrate credibility in nuclear deterrence?* Make public threats, threat that leaves something to chance, stationing troops abroad

*4. What is extended deterrence and how do alliance commitments complicate credible deterrent threats?*

*5. Explain the basis of stability under mutually assured destruction and how missile defense systems undermine that stability.* The soviets might nuke us before we can nuke them without consequences

*6. What is nuclear proliferation?* Spreading of nukes

*Compare and contrast the pessimistic and optimistic perspectives on how nuclear proliferation will affect international stability.*

*Why does the United States have a strong national interest in preventing nuclear proliferation?* Their arsenals will be redundant, limits power of US

**Module 15: Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

*1. According to the textbook chapter, what is terrorism? Rational actors using violent means to get their goals*, not rational (not concrete enough goals), prepared to die, cultural phenomenon - Terrorism is a contested and politically loaded concept that lacks a single, universally agreed upon definition.1

*What are the distinguishing features of terrorist organizations?* Pose an existential threat to safeguarding citizens

*What is the “terrorist’s dilemma”?* Terrorists have to calibrate their attacks to not over illicit responses

*2. According to the textbook chapter, why do terrorist organizations resort to political violence to achieve their political goals?* Because they see that it works, costly signals to adversaries, sending a message

*3. According to the textbook chapter, what are the dilemmas of counterterrorism?* If we respond to them, they win

*Discuss the costs and benefits of using defensive measures like domestic intelligence and increased security to counter terrorism.*

*What are tradeoffs associated with using external military force abroad to counter terrorism?*

*Why are terrorist organizations hard to deter?*

*4. Are terrorist groups rational? Compare and contrast the arguments for and against the idea that terrorist groups are rational political actors.*

*5. Discuss how the attack on 9/11 led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.* Focus on finding weapons of mass destruction (saddam had chemical weapons already, so deterrence would not work)

*How did the decision not to distinguish between terrorists and states that harbor terrorists play into this decision? How did considerations of domestic reaction and the possibility of another attack affect this decision?*

*6. How did we get from the attack on 9/11 and war in Afghanistan to war in Iraq?*

*7. Compare and contrast the ethical approaches to torture by Bill Clinton and John McCain.* Clinton flip-flopped, McCain was adamantly against torture

**Module 16: Great Power Politics II: Hegemony, Power Transition Theory, and US-China Relations**

*1. According to the textbook chapter, what is polarity?*

*How does the distribution of power between great powers influence their relations?* If power is roughly equal, war may break out

*What is the difference between unipolar (hegemonic), bipolar, and multipolar systems (less trade, more conflict) and how does each affect relations between great powers?*

*2. According to the textbook chapter and Module 16, what is power transition theory?*

*What causes shifts in the distribution of power among great powers and how can they alter the larger international political order and heighten the risks of war?*

*What type of international system does this theory expect when global powers are ascendant versus when global powers are in decline?*

*What is the commitment problem in this situation and how does it help to explain the incentives for declining powers to launch a preventive war against rising powers?*

*3. According to the textbook chapter, how do the hierarchical political systems of great powers influence relations between and within states?*

*Why did great powers establish colonies in other states and how did imperial economic expansion provoke war among the great powers?*

*How did imperial collapse change the international system?*

*4. According to the textbook chapter and Module 16, what is hegemonic (leadership or dominance) stability theory and how does it relate to the provision of public goods and the free rider problem in international relations?*

*What is the central claim of hegemonic stability theory as it pertains to the economic system? Explain and provide examples of how concentration of economic power in a dominant state (the U.S.) has promoted a prosperous international economy.*

*5. What is the security variant of hegemonic stability theory?* More peace and trade

*Explain and provide examples of how concentration of military power in a dominant state (the U.S.) has promoted a stable and peaceful international political system.*

*How is the hegemonic stability theory related to the idea of the U.S. as the indispensable nation?*

*6. How is the power transition theory related to U.S.-China relations?*

*Describe and explain contemporary China’s economic revolution. Describe China’s grand strategy.*

*What are the domestic foundations of China’s grand strategy?*

*7. Describe and explain the Taiwan issue and its relationship to contemporary China and U.S.-China relations.*

*What are the historical origins of the Taiwan issue?*

*What is the One China policy? What is the U.S. position on Taiwan and the One China policy?*

*8. Describe and explain the economic relationship between the United States and China in the contemporary era. What are the main elements of this relationship in terms of trade deficits and the nature of imports and exports between the two countries?*

*What does China get out of this relationship?*

*What does the U.S. get out of its economic relationship with China?*

**Weekly Update 4 (Tuesday, 10/10/17): The end of the Cold War, decertifying the Iran nuclear deal, Catalonian independence referendum**

*1. How did reforms such as Glasnost and Perestroika introduced by President Mikhail Gorbachev contribute to the collapse of the Soviet Union?*

*2. How did the aftermath of the failed coup in August 1991 create new relationships between republics within the Soviet Union?*

*How did independence referendums, in particular the Ukrainian independence referendum, affect President Boris Yeltsin’s calculations and affect relations between Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus over the Union Treaty?*

*3. What are the basic terms of the Iran nuclear deal?*

*What concessions did Iran accept and what did it get in return?*

*4. How did the politics, particularly the process by which President Obama pursued the Iran nuclear deal, affect its staying power after Obama left office?*

*5. Why did President Trump decertify the Iran nuclear deal?*

*What objections did he have to it?*

*Was Iran complying with the deal according to testimony by Secretary of Defense James Mattis?*

*6. What comes after decertification? What is the role of Congress and what are its options?*

*Discuss the politics surrounding decertification. Why did Trump do it?*

*7. Discuss the reasons why Catalonia pursued a vote for independence.*

*What was the reaction of the Spanish state and the European Union?*

*How are other European countries threatened by this referendum?*

*What competing values are involved in referenda for independence?*

**Weekly Update 5 (Tuesday, 10/17/17): Rex Tillerson, Kurdish Independence referendum and Battle over Kirkuk**

*1. Describe how Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is “hollowing out” the State Department and the reasons behind this policy decision.*

*What are the consequences for US leadership abroad of these policies?*

*2. How has President Trump’s reaction to Tillerson’s efforts to broker a diplomatic solution to the North Korean crisis undermined his authority?*

*3. What does it mean when commentators and politicians like Senator Bob Corker argue that cabinet members John Kelly, Jim Mattis, and Rex Tillerson are the “adults” in the Trump administration preventing World War III?*

*3. Why is Kirkuk such a valuable region in Iraq?*

*How did the Kurdish independence referendum complicate internal Iraqi politics, particularly over control in Kirkuk?*

*4. Why does Kurdish independence present the United States with a complicated choice in Iraq?*

*How does the prospect of Kurdish independence threaten regional actors like Turkey?*

**Weekly Update 6 (Tuesday, 10/24/17): Syrian Civil War, What happens after ISIS, Former presidents criticize President Trump**

*1. Discuss the main actors and their interests in the Syrian civil war.*

*Who is allied with whom?*

*What are the main cleavages and conflicts?*

*2. What are the central causes of the rise of ISIS?*

*What organization did it arise from?*

*What groups form its main support base?*

*How did regime change within the region and US foreign policy decision contribute to its rise?*

*3. What countries form the coalition against ISIS?*

*What do they agree on and disagree on?*

*4. What are the three main problems posed in the Vox clips following the military defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria? Discuss the boomerang effect and lone wolf terrorist attacks in the context of these problems.*

*5. Discuss President George W. Bush’s speech criticizing US foreign policy trends under Donald Trump?*

*What are the central values he claims underpins a bipartisan foreign policy that prevailed since the end of World War II?*

*What challenges undermine the confidence and self-identity of democracies in the Trump era?*

*6. Why is criticism of sitting presidents by former presidents so noteworthy?*

*What effect might this criticism have on President Trump’s approval ratings and legislative agenda?*