

Political Science 202
Introduction to Political Analysis
Fall 2023: Problem Set #2

Due on Blackboard on Friday, September 29 at 6:00 PM. 3 points in total. Late submissions are penalized with 1 point per 24 hours.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU RECEIVE AN UPLOAD CONFIRMATION and SAVE THE CONFIRMATION (submission date and confirmation number). If you have trouble uploading to Blackboard, email as an attachment to your TA before the deadline. If you don't get a reply confirming that you handed it in, send it again.

You can discuss the problem set with others, but you need to submit your own answers. If you discussed the problem set with others, note their names on your submission.

1. Consider the following research question: "What is the effect of economic development on the likelihood of civil war?" Propose a theory for how variation in economic development causes variation in the likelihood of civil war—that is, explain why the independent variable would have a causal effect on the dependent variable. When doing so, consider the criteria for good theoretical arguments that we discussed in class. Summarize your theoretical argument in a few paragraphs.
2. Next, think about how we can measure/operationalize economic development and civil war. For each variable, provide a conceptual definition (use the template discussed in class and the textbook). Then, provide an operational definition for each variable—how would you measure each concept? Summarize your answers in a few paragraphs, and be as specific as possible. Also, make sure you mention the unit of analysis.