

Political Science 202
Introduction to Political Analysis
Fall 2021: Problem Set #2

Due in Turnitin (Blackboard) on Friday, September 24 at 10am. 5 points in total. Late submissions are penalized with 1 point per 24 hours. MAKE SURE THAT YOU RECEIVED THE TURNITIN UPLOAD CONFIRMATION and SAVE THE CONFIRMATION. If you have trouble uploading to Turnitin or don't receive a confirmation, 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.

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 independent variable. To do so, it will be helpful to think about who the relevant actors are, what they are trying to achieve, what options they have, and what decisions they make. 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.