

2002

## Thomas Magstadt: Nations and Governments 3rd ed. Study Guide

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### Recommended Citation

Samson, Steven Alan, "Thomas Magstadt: Nations and Governments 3rd ed. Study Guide" (2002). *Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 113.

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**THOMAS MAGSTADT: NATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS, 3ed  
STUDY GUIDE, 2002  
Steven Alan Samson**

**PART I: INTRODUCTION**

**Chapter One: Comparative Politics and the Regional Perspective**

**Discussion Questions**

1. What reasons does the text give about why we should compare our own political institutions, processes, and traditions with those of others? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Briefly describe the "good life" espoused by each of the following philosophers: Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx, Jeremy Bentham. Which definition seems best to you and why?
3. How has religion influenced government structures and policies in Western Europe? What other factors also strongly influenced Western Europe's political development, and how?
4. Contrast the roles played by climate and the availability of natural resources (political ecology) in the economies of Asia and Africa versus North America. How have the wealth, well-being, and political policies of these regions been affected?

**Chapter Two: Comparing Political Systems**

1. Compare and contrast presidential democracy with parliamentary democracy. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? In your opinion, which system is preferable, and why?
2. What is a mixed regime? What are the advantages and disadvantages of mixed regimes? Give a contemporary example of a mixed regime and explain which features represent which facets of the "mix" in the example you have chosen.
3. Describe the differences between authoritarianism and totalitarianism. With few totalitarian regimes still in power today, what do you think the future holds for this type of rule? Why?
4. What is *laissez faire*? How does it apply to the United States? What is your opinion of government's role in the economy?

**Chapter Three: Politics and Development: Nationalism of Regionalism?**

1. Compare and contrast the normative, descriptive, and deterministic approaches to political

development. What are the limitations of each approach?

2. If development can be defined as "the increasing capacity to make rational use of natural and human resources for social needs," which nations do you consider to be "developed"? Can political development occur without economic development? Defend your answer.
3. How does the political life of a nation interact and relate with its economic, cultural, and social aspects? What specific factors are involved that affect development?
4. Briefly describe a few of the characteristics common to underdeveloped nations. What kinds of policies are being pursued to combat these conditions?
5. The author states that development is an ongoing, never-ending process. In view of this, what do you think the future holds for an advanced nation such as the United States? Will it continue to develop? Are there limits to its growth? Explain your answer.

## Review

### Chapter One

Aristotle's realism and idealism  
 consequences of the colonization of Asia and Africa  
 similar vs. dissimilar patterns of rule: Great Britain, France, Germany  
 Thomas Hobbes on the state of nature  
 Karl Marx's dialectical materialism  
 John Locke and Thomas Jefferson on liberty  
 effect of demographic characteristics on political structure or policy  
 postindustrial change from manufacturing to a service-based economy  
 factors that left a strong imprint on European culture

### Chapter Two

Aristotle's six worthy (legitimate) and corrupt (illegitimate) forms of rule  
 mixed regime  
 parliamentary democracy in Great Britain  
 similarities of democracies and dictatorships  
 characteristics of a mixed free enterprise economy (as opposed to command economy)  
 types of regimes or structures associated with authoritarianism  
 Aristotle: basic aims of tyrants  
 monarchs who rule as well as reign  
 Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika*  
 requirements for the growth of command economies

### Chapter Three

Plato vs. Enlightenment on development theory and idea of progress  
 Jean-Jacques Rousseau vs. Friedrich Hegel on the modern state  
 Montesquieu's empirical theory  
 dependency theory  
 David McClelland, Daniel Lerner, and Edward Banfield's theories  
 basic class divisions of dependency theories  
 consequences of political instability in Third World

principal forms of state intervention in developing countries  
 mobilization and reconciliation systems  
 relative ability of First World (democratic) political institutions to accommodate conflict  
 three patterns of economic development

## **PART II: WESTERN EUROPE**

### **Chapter Four: The Western Political Heritage**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways has totalitarianism helped shape the political landscape of modern Europe?
2. What were the basic tenets of National Socialism? How did these tenets help Hitler and the Nazi party?
3. The author states that war has played a major role in shaping the modern history of Western Europe. Do you agree or disagree? Could the same changes have taken place without war? Explain.
4. Briefly list a few of the economic and social consequences of the Industrial Revolution. Are the majority of these results positive or negative in their impact on society? Why?
5. Identify reasons why some Europeans would sympathize with Communism. How, then, do you explain the fall of both communism and eurocommunism in Eastern and Western Europe?

### **Chapter Five: The Triumphs of Parliaments and Pluralism**

1. If you could be either the president of the United States or the prime minister of Great Britain, which job would you prefer? Explain. (Base your answer on the constitutional powers and responsibilities of each office.)
2. Compare and contrast the British electoral system with that of the United States.
3. Compare and contrast the constitutional powers of the French president and the British prime minister.
4. The author notes that in drafting its charter, the Basic Law, Germany borrowed freely from the governing principles of other nations. Name the key models for Germany's government and briefly describe the elements adapted from each.
5. What are the primary goals of the European Community? Has the EC shown signs of growth or decline in the past decade? Explain.

### **Chapter Six: A Common European House?**

1. What forms did U.S. assistance to Western Europe take after World War II? Why did Western Europe need so much assistance?
2. What are the economic characteristics of a postindustrial society? What problems developed in Western Europe as a result of postindustrialization?
3. Discuss the economic problems facing Great Britain. What solutions have already been tried? Have they succeeded? What other solutions have been proposed?
4. In 1982 the Socialist government in France attempted to revive a sagging economy by nationalizing several industries. What was the theory behind this program? Was it successful? Explain.
5. During the 1980s some scholars asserted that many advanced industrial nations were approaching "limits to growth." These critics ask, "What is the future of the industrial democracies of Western Europe?" How would you answer the question? Have industrial nations exhausted their potential? Do they face inevitable decline?

## Review

### Chapter Four

similarities among contemporary Western European states  
 Reformation and Christianity  
 Renaissance humanism and secularization  
 assumptions behind mercantilism  
 Scientific Revolution and its consequences  
 liberalism and the Industrial revolution  
 Mahan's and Darwin's justifications of imperialism  
 effects of Versailles Treaty  
 national divisiveness within Britain  
 balance of payments  
 reasons for Britain's comparative security from external threats  
 historical lack of social cohesiveness and political stability in France

### Chapter Five

features of constitutional monarchies  
 Britain's unique unwritten constitution and its sources  
 functions of House of Lords and cabinet  
 American vs. British bureaucrats  
 powers of French president and prime minister  
 underlying purpose of Germany's Basic law  
 German *Fraktionen*  
 effect of the European Community on traditional nationalism  
 parliamentary sovereignty  
 corporatist model

### Chapter Six

key decisions by the Truman administration  
 shifts that mark postindustrial society

reverse development  
 post-war economic recovery except in Britain  
 Keynesian theory and its inability to account for stagflation  
 consequences of Mitterand's nationalization program  
 problems that have accompanied German reunification  
 Maastricht Treaty

## PART III: RUSSIA AND SLAVIC EUROPE

### Chapter Seven: Slavic Europe: The Shatter Zone

#### Discussion Questions

1. In what ways has geography influenced Russia's history? How has it influenced agriculture and the attitudes of the country's people?
2. What impact did the Cold War have on East-West relations, specifically in the areas of arms control and trade?
3. In what ways has geography influenced Eastern European history? Give examples to support your points.
4. What were the primary principles of Soviet ideology? How did Lenin and Stalin bend Marxist ideas and philosophies to fit their own political situations?
5. What were the most significant developments in the Soviet Union after Stalin's death in 1953?

### Chapter Eight: New Order, Old Disorders

1. Why did the Soviets opt for a federal system? How was it affected by Gorbachev's reforms?
2. What role does economics play in Soviet ideology? On what was the Soviet economy based, and how was it implemented?
3. What made the December 1989 revolution in Romania so different from revolutions taking place elsewhere in Europe? Why did the people react so violently against Ceausescu?
4. In what ways did Gorbachev try to reform or restructure the ailing Soviet society he inherited? What obstacles stood in the way? What were some of the positive effects of *perestroika*?
5. Briefly explain the events which led to the collapse of the Soviet system. In your opinion, could the system have been saved? Why or why not?

### Chapter Nine: Transition or Regression?

1. What sort of political opposition did Russian President Boris Yeltsin encounter in his reform

efforts? What was the source of this opposition? What were the principal challenges Yeltsin faced in 1992 and 1993?

2. What general problems of transition do all the former Soviet bloc states face? Would joining the European Community truly make a difference to these countries? Do you think that will happen? Explain.
3. Name a few of the causes of conflict in the former Yugoslavia. In your opinion, is a spillover likely? Why or why not?
4. Compare and contrast the breakup in Czechoslovakia with that in Yugoslavia. What is the outlook for the newly created Czech Republic and Slovak Republic?

## Review

### Chapter Seven

Slavic "shatter zone" and Moscow's Russification policies  
 Tocqueville's anticipation of a bipolar world  
 Russian climate, geography, and natural resources  
 reasons for Kerensky's failure  
 Stalin's policies of autarky and collectivization  
 Chinese-American relationship  
 anti-Stalinism  
 de-Stalinization  
 containment  
 Marx's law of capitalist accumulation and law of pauperization  
 Marx's concept of alienation  
 Lenin's version of Marx's dictatorship of the proletariat  
*pokazukha* and *blat*

### Chapter Eight

*nomenklatura* system  
 central planning of Soviet economy vs. market economy  
*perestroika*  
 moonlighting law  
*glasnost*  
 the "National Question" and the August Coup  
 Brezhnev Doctrine  
 Czechoslovakia's velvet revolution

### Chapter Nine

Poland's shock therapy  
 hegemonic stability theory  
 hyperinflation  
 centrifugal forces, including "Slavic unity" and alliances  
 East Central Europe: liquidation of state-owned enterprises  
 Yugoslavia's market-oriented reforms  
 ethnic cleansing  
 J curve theory

## PART IV: THE MIDDLE EAST

### Chapter Ten: Religion and Nationalism

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why do Muslims, Christians, and Jews all view Jerusalem as their Holy City? How has this affected relations in the Middle East?
2. What role did religion play in the Iranian Revolution and in the Iran-Iraq War?
3. How have colonialism and Western intrusion affected relationships of countries in the Middle East? Since the end of colonialism, has the political climate in the region improved or worsened? Explain.
4. In what ways did the Arab awakening (Arab nationalism) affect politics in the Middle East?
5. What are a few of the misconceptions and prejudices Westerners entertain concerning Arabic culture? How does such ignorance affect policy?

#### Chapter Eleven: Monarchies, Dictatorships, and a Garrison State

1. What is the main factor holding Iranian society together, despite its ethnic and religious diversity? Compare this to the situation in the United States, which is also ethnically and religiously diverse. What similarities and differences can you identify in the ways Iran and the United States handle diversity?
2. For what reasons did the Ayatollah Khomeini suddenly call a halt to the Iran-Iraq War? Who won?
3. Compare and contrast the types of rule in Egypt and Israel. Have their political systems changed much since the 1979 peace treaty? If so, how?
4. Explain how Arab rulers are simultaneously manipulators and prisoners of the power symbols of Islam and Arab nationalism.
5. Why does the author describe Saudi Arabia's oil wealth a "mixed blessing"? What recent events have proved that this is true?

#### Chapter Twelve: Beyond the Arab-Israeli Conflict

1. What does the author mean by the assertion that the Middle East is a land of paradoxes?
2. What are the causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and what results has the conflict brought?
3. Why is the Israeli policy of establishing settlements in the Occupied Territories so controversial?
4. How have the economies of Egypt and Israel fared since the signing of their peace treaty in



1979? What economic and social problems do these countries currently face?

5. What factors contributed to the 1993 breakthrough in negotiations between Israel and the PLO?

## Review

### Chapter Ten

non-Arab nations in the Middle East

isolation of Saudi society from the rest of the world

Five Pillars of Islam

Saddam Hussein's view of Khomeini's Islamic revolution

incessant ethnic conflict in early 20th century Turkey, the sick man of Europe

the Jewish Diaspora

Zionism

*jihad*

three aspects of the Egyptian Revolution

Nasser as a charismatic leader (cult of personality)

Israel's preemptive attack on Egypt in the Six Day War

Arab attitudes towards Sadat and the Camp David Accords

Saudi Arabia's crude oil reserves and the oil embargo

Sephardic and Ashkenazic

### Chapter Eleven

roots of militant Arab politics in Islam

internecine war in the Middle East

causes of Arab nationalism

Arab alliances with and military aid from the USSR against Israel

Israel's political system, including absence of a written constitution

Islamic fundamentalist challenge to Egypt's single-party system

Iran as a threat to peace

fiat law (*khadi* law) in Saudi Arabia

Hosni Mubarak's approach to Islamic fundamentalism

### Chapter Twelve

economic and population trends in Arab countries

Palestine as the "twice-promised land"

*Gush Emunim*

threat of the *intifada*

effects of the superpower rivalry during the Cold War

Israel's vulnerability to foreign economic reprisals

economic and political transformation of Israel

reasons for Lebanon's economic prosperity

causes of the Lebanese civil war

Iraq as a landlocked state rich in oil reserves

reasons for Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

1979 peace treaty

1993 agreement

Begin on Israel "creating facts"

West Bank settlements

## **PART V: ASIA**

### **Chapter Thirteen: Civilizations and Empires**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What economic challenges does China face? Discuss how the country's natural resources, population, geography, and environment will affect its ability to meet those challenges.
2. Some observers predict that the twenty-first century will "belong" to Asia. What do they mean by that? Do you see that happening in any Asian countries now? If so, which ones? Give examples to support your opinion.
3. How has cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity affected the political and social climate in India?
4. Compare and contrast the effects of colonialism and neocolonialism on China, Japan, and India.
5. Why is Japan described as one of the most homogeneous nations in the world in terms of culture, language, and ethnicity? Cite specific examples in your explanation.

### **Chapter Fourteen: Change and Continuity**

1. What effects did World War II have on the political systems of China, Japan, and India? Explain fully.
2. Discuss Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward. What took place, and with what overall effects? Was this policy good or not? Explain your answer.
3. One expert describes Japan as a paradox, "an open society made up of closed components." What does this mean? How does Japan compare to Western democracies?
4. How is India's government similar to Great Britain's? How is it unique? What obstacles has it faced?
5. Compare and contrast the Chinese approach to reform with that of the Soviet Union. What primary difference in strategy has had successful results in China?

### **Chapter Fifteen: A Regional Economic Miracle in the Making?**

1. A common dilemma in Asia is how to manage change so that the economy grows and society prospers without eroding the nation's moral, spiritual, cultural, and aesthetic values. How have Japan, China, and India managed this problem? Have they been successful?

2. In developing Asian countries, large families can be both a help and a hindrance. Explain why this is so.
3. How do many of Japan's most pressing political problems relate directly and indirectly to its economic success? What are some of the economic challenges the country faces in the 1990s?
4. Though a stable democracy, India has experienced mixed results economically. What factors contribute to this economic fluctuation and how do they impact the situation?
5. Discuss the significance of the 1993 national election in Japan. What happened and why? What are the consequences likely to be?

## Review

### Chapter Thirteen

human resources in Asia  
 consequences of overdevelopment and the urban population boom in Japan  
 Asia's four little dragons (or tigers)  
 dynastic authoritarianism  
 blending of Japan's traditional culture with western institutions  
 Mongol invasion under Genghis Khan and the Yuan dynasty  
 the Opium War  
 the Boxer Rebellion  
 the Tokugawa shogunate  
 India and the Himalayan mountains  
 Meiji Restoration  
 Asian democracy  
 patron-client relations

### Chapter Fourteen

Douglas MacArthur and the Japanese constitution  
 British influence on Indian and Japanese political institutions  
 Ho Chi Minh's national liberation war against France  
 military dictatorship  
 central planning and state intervention vs. reliance on market forces  
 the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution  
 the Red Guards  
 leadership positions in China and Deng Xiaoping's status  
 Japan's and India's one-party dominant system  
 Mahatma Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign (*satyagraha*)  
 India's federal and parliamentary system  
 Great Leap Forward

### Chapter Fifteen

aging and dependency in Asia  
 birthrates in affluent societies  
 population, wealth, and production in Asia's developing countries  
 impact of Tiananmen Square on China's economic reforms  
 Japan's turn to high-technology

Japan's dependence on foreign petroleum  
 political effects of communalism and regionalism in India  
 the Punjab  
 Basic Needs Countries  
 India's international support system  
 Japan's Liberal Democratic Party

## **PART VI: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

### **Chapter Sixteen: The Legacy of Colonialism**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways has geography influenced economic and political development in sub-Saharan Africa?
2. Did Christianity play a large part in the development of African politics and culture? Why (or why not)?
3. What role did colonialism play in shaping African politics? In your opinion, were its effects more positive or more negative? Explain.
4. Compare the experience of the Boers (Afrikaners) with that of the early pioneers in the United States. How is their experience relevant to the current situation in South Africa?
5. According to the author, in the twentieth century the societies of sub-Saharan Africa were torn by conflicts between rejectionists and assimilationists. What was the origin of this conflict? How did it affect the African People?

### **Chapter Seventeen: Endemic Authoritarianism?**

1. Which factors influenced economic development in African countries and the formation of the New International Economic Order (NIEO)?
2. Define the twin tenets of African unity and self-reliance. How, if at all, have they influenced Africa's development? What role did Kwame Nkrumah play in Africa's development?
3. Why did South Africa implement apartheid? What does the author mean by saying that South Africa has a dual system of government? South Africa's 1984 Constitution provides for a three-chambered Parliament. Is this a sign that the government is planning to eliminate apartheid? Why (or why not)?
4. What are some of the reasons why pan-Africanism has not been embraced as readily as nationalism in Africa? Do you think the possibility of political and economic unification of sub-Saharan Africa is realistic? Why or why not?
5. Compare and contrast the political climates of Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. In your opinion, which has nurtured the most successful political system? Explain.

## Chapter Eighteen: Delayed Development and Dependency

1. Explain Ali Mazrui's metaphor describing Africa as a "Garden of Eden" in decay.
2. What theories have scholars developed to explain Africa's economic and political problems? Which theory seems best in your opinion, and why?
3. The author says that the benevolence of colonial administrators to their subjects and the charity of missionaries toward their converts were a mixed blessing. In what ways were these factors beneficial or harmful?
4. Is the Western argument that Africa's economic ills result primarily from over-population accurate or is it merely a myth? Why?
5. In your opinion, is political pluralism in Africa's multi-ethnic societies viable? Explain your answer.

### Review

#### Chapter Sixteen

origins of large-scale organization in Africa  
 causes of European push for overseas territories  
 Africanity  
 historical cultural influences in Kenya  
 causes of Boer War  
 Afrikaner political attitudes  
 chief ethnic rivals in Kenya  
 Jomo Kenyatta  
 causes of socio-economic problems  
 European conquest

#### Chapter Seventeen

persistence of a colonial mentality in Africa  
 Arusha Declaration of 1967  
 basic types of African political regimes  
 dangers of personalistic authoritarian regimes  
 negritude  
 Leopold Senghor  
 Pan-Africanism  
 African socialism  
 major oil producers  
*apartheid*  
 popularity of single-party polyarchy  
 Group of 77

#### Chapter Eighteen

queuing

evolutionary theory  
 development theories  
 family planning  
 dependency theory  
 countries of the Horn of Africa  
 Kenya's challenges  
 Kenya's secret police  
 dependency theory  
 cotton production in Tanzania

## PART VII: LATIN AMERICA

### Chapter Nineteen: The Spanish Conquest and Its Aftermath

#### Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of political and social problems does the illegal drug industry pose for Andean countries? Can anything be done about these problems?
2. Compare and contrast the political development of Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. What was the role of the military in the history of these countries? How did world War I and the Depression of the 1930s affect them?
3. How has Catholicism shaped political history in Latin America? Do you think it had a positive or negative impact? Why?
4. Briefly describe the hierarchy of the Latin American caste system. How did it contribute to conflict and flawed government?
5. In what ways did the United States simultaneously build relations with and instigate resentment from Latin American countries over the year?

### Chapter Twenty: *Caudillos*, Coups, and Constitutions

1. Describe the informal workings of the Mexican government, particularly the Mexican system of elections. Is Mexico's political system a democratic or an authoritarian one?
2. Compare and contrast politics and government in Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. What important similarities do the governments share? In what ways do they differ? How do they compare to the political system of the United States?
3. What is the role of the military in the political systems of Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina? How has it changed in the last decade or so?
4. How have human rights and civil liberties fared in Latin American countries given the climate for political corruption and violence?

## Chapter Twenty-One: The Politics of Miracles

1. One expert argues that there are actually five Mexican nations. Explain his position by describing each nation and its economic, social, and political problems.
2. With Latin American countries making efforts to liberalize their political systems and open their economies to foreign competition, do you see economic underdevelopment as a continuing problem? Explain your answer. What solutions can be found?
3. Compare and contrast the current economic problems of Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina. What are their similarities and differences?

### Review

#### Chapter Nineteen

urbanization of Latin America  
 problems of Spanish colonial rule  
 natural resources of Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile  
 features of Inca, Mayan, and Aztec civilizations  
 features of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America  
 post-WWII economic development in Mexico  
 role of the military and the demilitarization of Latin American politics  
*encomienda* system  
*caudillismo*  
 political role of MNCs  
 racial and ethnic attitudes  
 Monroe Doctrine

#### Chapter Twenty

role and powers of Mexican, Brazilian, and Argentinian congresses  
 methods of replacing authoritarian governments  
 rise of civilian democratic regimes  
 presidential powers in Mexico  
*abertura*  
 Costa Rica  
 role of military in Latin America  
 major geographical features of Latin America  
 Argentina's "dirty war"  
 Falkland Islands War  
 writ of *amparo*

#### Chapter Twenty-One

the Andean Pact  
 Cruzado Plan  
 Argentina's Law of Due Obedience  
 Honduras  
 Costa Rica  
 causes of Mexico's economic crisis

democratization in Chile

NAFTA

impact of the oil glut of the 1980s