**Burnell, Randall & Rakner: Politics in the Developing World 4e**

**Study questions**

**Chapter 13**

1. What were common causes of violent transitions to independence?
2. Suggest causes to the rise of conflicts within post-colonial states.
3. Is ethnicity usually the root cause of ethnic conflicts?
4. Discuss the concept of ‘social order’ conflict. What does it entail?
5. What does the term ‘proxy wars’ mean and can any such wars be identified in the world today?
6. According to Diamond’s summary of how ‘truly democratic’ countries behave, do you in general consider most industrialized countries as ‘truly democratic’? Do you agree with his assertions?
7. What does it imply to view wars as ‘social processes’?
8. What are ‘war economies’?
9. Are the different theories on ‘new wars’ mutually exclusive, or do they complement each other in portraying the complexity of these wars?
10. Discuss the limitations of Collier’s rational choice model for explaining civil war.
11. What are the principal criticisms against the term ‘failed state’ and do you consider the term useful for analytical purposes?
12. If the road to democracy is associated with violence and instability, is this a good argument for not trying to implement it?
13. What are the ‘new forces’? How can the negative effects of these actors be minimized?
14. What does ‘the peace-building package’ consist of? In your opinion, should some components of it have been excluded?
15. Is it conceivable that new powers in the developing world can provide an alternative to the ‘Western-inspired template’ of peace-building?
16. What are the extra risks that vulnerable populations like women and children face in conflict? Has this changed over time?
17. Compare the political consequences of the ‘War on Terror’ on two or more of the cases discussed in the book.
18. Is the ‘responsibility to protect’ a useful and effective tool for the international community to protect civilians?
19. Discuss whether changes due to ‘people power’ are more or less likely to lead to peaceful and long-lasting regime change than other sources of regime change.
20. Are international military interventions effective? Give examples from the developing world.