

Political Science 378
American National Security Policy
Fall 2006 Final Exam December 15, 2006

INSTRUCTIONS

There are four parts to this exam: three pairs of essays (write on one question from each pair) and a set of short answer questions on material since the midterm. Each part is worth 30 points, so the maximum score for the entire exam is 120 points. Each short answer question is worth 5 points, and each essay is worth 30 points. Follow the instructions for each section. Even though you will have the entire three hours, plan your time carefully. Outlining an essay before you write is not a bad idea. If you do not understand a question, ask me, don't guess! Good luck and have a good break.

PART I. ESSAYS

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

A. You are a military advisor to the government of Iran. Your government is anticipating a ground attack by the United States in the near future. It is believed that the US will attack with 4 or 5 divisions, and that 3 of these divisions will be heavy (mechanized infantry or armor). The Iran army has about 12 divisions, 4 of which are armored. In addition Iran has the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, with has 125,000 troops; they are organized in up to 20 infantry divisions. What basic strategy would you advise Iran to use to stop the invasion? Should the Iranian army directly take on the US forces, or should they use some other strategy? Consider 2 strategies, one of which is to directly confront the US invasion. After considering the pros and cons of both, pick one and justify it.

B. You are the military leader of a country that borders on the ocean. You anticipate that the US Navy will soon be attacking you. The attack will consist of carrier-based aircraft, and cruise missiles fired from surface ships and (possibly) submarines. This will be followed up by an amphibious assault by Marine Corps forces. To defend your coast, you have 4 surface warships (capable of operating in the ocean), 4 modern diesel submarines, about 20 smaller craft armed with cruise missiles that can strike surface ships, about 100 combat aircraft at various airfields throughout your country, and a large number of mines. How will you defend against the US? I am asking for a basic plan, not a detailed account of the mission of individual ships and aircraft. Be sure to justify your choices.

PART II. ESSAYS

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

C. Currently the active duty army consists of 10 divisions: 1 airborne, 1 air assault, 2 light infantry, 4 mechanized infantry, and 2 armored (note: there are some additional combat units that are not part of any division). As noted in class, there is not much difference in the organization of a mechanized infantry division and an armored division. So of the 10 active duty divisions, 6 are "heavy" divisions. Is this the right mix (6 of 10 active duty divisions)? In a world of threats that require rapid response and where firepower can be delivered from long distances to precise locations on the ground (i.e., smart bombs, cruise missiles) is there a need to have over half the active duty army divisions full of heavy (and hard to transport) equipment? In your essay, consider the advantages and disadvantages of heavy divisions. Then offer up a recommendation for how many of the Army's active duty divisions should be heavy. Support your recommendation.

D. While many decision makers do not like it, it appears likely that the US will have to engage in peacekeeping/nation building operations. For example, right now US forces are engaged in this type of mission in Bosnia, Kosovo, and of course Iraq. Since this is a different kind of military mission, do you think the US should train forces specifically for this? This requires a lot of thought, because under current conditions, the size of the US military is unlikely to increase. Look at the current distribution of divisions in the Army. Assume it is proposed to create 3 divisions of peacekeeper/nation building troops. Which 3 divisions would you cut from the current force structure to do this? Be sure to explain your argument.

PART III. ESSAYS

Write an essay on one of the following two questions. It is worth 30 points.

E. In lecture, we discussed the Falklands/Malvinas War; part of a chapter in O'Hanlon's book talks about a possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Begin your essay by talking about the main tasks that the British tried to undertake in the Falklands/Malvinas operation. After discussing the tasks, evaluate how successful the British were at each (note: this suggests that the British may not have been successful at all tasks). Then consider a Chinese invasion of Taiwan (this is discussed in chapter 6 of O'Hanlon). Discuss whether the Chinese would have to successfully undertake the same tasks. Are there other tasks that the Chinese would have to accomplish that the British did not have to do? Finally, for each task, evaluate how successful you believe the Chinese would be if they attempted this operation.

F. During the Cold War US declaratory for using nuclear weapons has been based on one of two general conceptions: a small chance of a larger amount of destruction, or a large chance of a small amount of destruction. In your essay discuss each strategy, and include one example of each (i.e., identify a particular strategy or a presidency whose nuclear strategy was based on each). Now consider the threats the United States will face over the next ten years for which nuclear deterrence would be an appropriate strategy. Describe these threats (you must describe at least 2 threats). Then specify which general conception you believe would be more appropriate as a US nuclear strategy. You must justify your choice.

PART IV. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Do 3 short answer questions from each of the two sets of short answer questions.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE READINGS (5 points/answer).

1. According to O'Hanlon (Setting the Context: The Afghanistan and Iraq Wars and Their Lessons) what were the phases of the Afghan War?
2. According to Campbell & Ward (New Battle Stations?), what steps should be taken before and during the rollout of any new military posture?
3. According to Roy (Rising China and U.S. Interests: Inevitable vs Contingent Hazards) why should the improvement of the PLAN be viewed as a contingent threat not an inevitable one?
4. According to Krepinevich (Cavalry to Computer: The Pattern of Military Revolutions), what is a military revolution?
5. According to O'Hanlon (Beyond Iraq and North Korea), how should the US carry out the mission of setting up a safe shipping lane east of Taiwan?

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE LECTURES (5 points/answer).

6. What are the recent & planned changes to US strategic nuclear weapons systems?
7. What characteristics does a chemical weapon need to be militarily useful?
8. Name and define the arguments were made by the "NATO optimists" about why NATO would do better against an attack than most people assumed.
9. What were the 3 Phases to Maritime Strategy?
10. Name and describe the different phases of a blitzkrieg attack.