

IR 381 Intro to International Security
Take-Home Midterm Exam
Fall 2020

Please answer the following two questions. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your knowledge of the course readings and your ability to synthesize and apply them. That means that your answers should draw from a variety of readings and a variety of topics covered in the course; keep that in mind as you craft your responses.

There is no formal length requirement, but I would suggest a target length of about 3 double-spaced pages (that's *per question*). I will stop reading at 5 pages (again, *per question*).

When you reference course readings, please do so via in-text citations (NAME YEAR). You may bring in outside sources if you so choose, but if you do, please put them in a Works Cited list at the end of your exam. If only using sources from the syllabus, no Works Cited is necessary.

The questions will be given equal weight in determining your grade.

Question 1) Please read the following *New York Times* article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/03/world/middleeast/armenian-azerbaijan-conflict.html>

The report describes recent fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Please write an essay that responds to the following questions:

- a) How can Fearon's (1995) bargaining model of war help us understand what is happening now between the two countries? Evaluate the conflict using the three sources of bargaining failure identified by Fearon.
- b) How does the role of allies, like Turkey and Russia, affect any potential bargains?
- c) Based on your analysis, make a recommendation as to what should be done and who should do it. Your recommendation should be justified using course materials (not just your opinion).

Note: You are welcome to do more research on the conflict, but the article in the prompt provides enough information for you to answer the question. You will be graded based on your application of concepts and theory, not on knowledge of the conflict.

Question 2) The Trump Administration's foreign policy has been guided by the idea of "America First," leading the United States to renegotiate or pull out of treaties and agreements (e.g. the Iran Deal), call for greater burden-sharing from allies in NATO, and make threats against China.

Please write an essay that uses course materials to evaluate the America First approach as it relates to international security. Use the following questions to guide your response:

- a) What can a domestic politics perspective on international relations tell us about the origins of the approach and the type of behavior we are likely to see from a government with this type of foreign policy?
- b) In instances of coercive bargaining, when might this approach be advantageous for the United States and when might it not? Why? Does the type of threat matter?
- c) Does this approach increase or decrease the probability for conflict in the international system? Between whom?