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Instructions: Answer ONE question from Part I and TWO questions from any two additional parts of the examination. You may NOT answer two questions from any single part of the examination.

PART I THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Question One

Is sovereignty constitutive of international relations? How are we to theorize sovereignty?

Question Two

Although we usually present debates over IR theory in terms of realism, neo-liberalism, and constructivism, it may also be useful to think about IR theory in terms of structural approaches as compared to agentic approaches. Contrast the major structural approaches to IR with the major agentic approaches, and discuss how dividing up the field in this way helps us understand theoretical differences and similarities we might otherwise miss.

PART II INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Question One

Does nuclear weapons proliferation perform a stabilizing or destabilizing role?

Question Two

How have scholars and policymakers conceived of "security"? How have those understandings shifted over time? Finally, how do you think security might be most usefully conceptualized?

PART III INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Question One

What's at stake in describing today's global political economy as Empire as distinct from globalization?

Question Two

Is there within and between international trade and financial institutions a epistemic community(ies)? Of what normative significance is the (non)existence of such a community(ies)?

PART IV INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, AND LAW

Question One

Compliance with international norms and rules is a question of central interest to legal scholars and IR scholars. Summarize what the different IR and International Law authors mean by compliance, and highlight the arguments different authors make about the conditions under which states will comply with global norms and institutions

Question Two

In the arena of international security, when and why have norms and institutions proved powerful, and when and why have they not? Can international institutions realistically be (re)designed in a way that will bolster their ability to provide collective or even regional security? What are the properties and attributes of these security institutions that have proven to be particularly effective. Make sure to refer to concrete empirical examples throughout the essay.

PART V WORLD ORDER

Question One

Is it accurate and significant to say that contemporary world order is gendered?

Question Two

What roles have major wars played in the formation of international order? Why? What happens to that order as the war fades into memory? Refer to a variety of theoretical perspectives in answering these questions.

PART VI FOREIGN POLICY

Question One

How might theories on foreign policy help us understand the foreign policies decisions leading to the current war in Iraq?

Question Two

How might the study of foreign policy cast light on the debate stimulated by the recent article by Mearsheimer and Walt, which argues that a powerful lobby has gotten the United States to act against its national interests in favor of the interests of another state?