

## **Take Home Exam 2 - all papers due by Monday June 2nd, 18:00.**

Please choose one of the following questions and write a 3500 words essay in response.

### **1. Middle/small powers**

The redistribution of power currently taking place in the international system will impact actors in different ways, depending on their interests, region, and alignment. Generally we focus on great powers, but here take two small or middle powers of your choice and discuss what specific challenges they will have to adapt to in the coming decades.

### **2. Credibility**

Credibility is a concept that is central to strategy. Discuss.

### **3. American unipolarity/hegemony**

Do you think American grand strategy will be *significantly (emphasis)* constrained in the coming decades? Take into account theoretical views of both structural and domestic drivers of US grand strategy and lay out the direction in which you expect it to develop in the next two decades. Incorporate current/empirical evidence pointing to changes or lack thereof, and specify the strategic dimensions / regions

### **4. Cold Wars**

The Cold War can be divided into two separate but linked Cold Wars, one in the core and the other in the periphery. Discuss how these were (and were not) connected with each other, through an analysis and evaluation of motives/drivers and outcomes.

### **5. Strategic documents**

We discussed how to break down strategic documents of states into six dimensions, allows us partial insight into the nature and direction of their grand strategies. Either take two countries with two documents each, or take three countries with one document each, and, after laying out the general logic stated in the document, contrast this to the other state(s) and to the expectations of theory. (Source: <http://merln.ndu.edu/whitepapers.html> and government websites)

### **6. Swing states**

Whether due to their size, geographic location, or other specific characteristics, certain states can drastically swing regional or systemic outcomes. In your opinion, which states stand most to affect the outcome of the strategic competition between the US and China, and answer also why and how you are likely to do so.

### **7. Role of force in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

In our discussion of force, we have acknowledged that force has developed according to shifting political, social, and technological contexts. Sometimes such

changes led to tragedy, at other times they ensured stability. As the world continues to evolve politically, socially, and technologically, what do you believe the role of force is likely to be? In your discussion, reference elements from the course such as actors, doctrine, institutional settings, new technology, and so on.

### **8. 'Doing' strategy**

The range of instruments, their complexity, and the specialized knowledge required to create and enact strategy has increased over the past centuries. Explain how actors and institutions charged with doing strategy have changed over the past century or so, and extend this argument into the contemporary period. Also discuss the implications of these changes.

### **Grading**

Essay counts for 40% final grade.

Papers will be judged according the following criteria:

creativity; answering the actual question; application of theory (where needed); application of literature (where needed); empirics (use of evidence and examples); awareness of rival explanations (if applicable); cohesive and clear structure of the paper (introduction-argument-conclusion); clarity of writing; correctly citing sources; and presentation, spelling and grammar (proof-reading).

Going over/under the (+/- 15%) word count of 3500 words: depending on (ir)relevance to question, approximately 0,5 points per 350 words.

**Handing in papers late: 1 day = 1 point, 2 days = 2 points, 3 days = 3 points ( i.e. not likely to pass). Not handing in a paper after 3 days makes you ineligible for the redo of the second exam.**

Preferably, papers use line-spacing of 1.5 and font 11 or 12. Clearly separate sections of the paper, but do not waste paper.

The exams should be handed in the Ephorus folders in the Content Section on Blackboard by the given deadline. Students are recommended to send an extra copy to the instructor through mail. No hard copy is needed.