Write a concise essay agreeing or disagreeing with the following:

“In 1991 many Sovietologists mistakenly recommended that the best strategy for making a successful transition to stable capitalist democracies would be an inclusive regime that balanced Communists against reformers and that pursued a middle course of balancing the ‘best’ of Soviet policies with moderate reforms. With over a decade of experience behind us we can now safely conclude that the Sovietologists were completely wrong. In the transition from Communism there has been one strategy that has shown itself to be superior to all the others—sweep away the Communists and all remnants of their regime and build entirely new institutions from the ground up. Those countries that have broken with the Communist past have fared far better than those that have attempted to retain either some or many Communist institutions. ‘Shock therapy’ in nation-building and state-building is the only path to success just as it is the only path to sustained economic growth. Only fully reformed regimes have successfully addressed the problems of establishing national unity, stable democratic politics, vibrant economies, and national security.”

Instructions

1. You should write an essay of about twelve typewritten (double-spaced) pages.

2. Your essay should show good expository style: A thesis statement opens the essay. Subsequent paragraphs develop this proposition logically. Evidence supports major assertions in the logical development of your thesis.

3. Your answer to this question cannot be found by dredging up more facts. Instead, your answer to this question should draw upon theoretical and factual materials found in the lectures and the readings. Your essay should demonstrate that you have actively engaged in critical analysis of some major arguments in this course and you know how to use them to analyze the “real” world.

4. You may discuss your answer with other students, the TAs, or me. Your final paper, however, must be your own work. If it is not your own work, this constitutes plagiarism—a violation of academic regulations at this university. Please do not jeopardize your academic career by plagiarism.

5. Before turning in your paper, make a copy for your files. If your paper is lost, this will be the only record.

6. Please include a “title” page with your name, student number, and a Buckley waiver statement that indicates whether your examination may be left for pick-up in the Political Science Department office (SSB 301) after it is graded. Please do not include a fancy cover; simply staple the pages at the upper left-hand corner.

7. Please turn in your essay to the Department of Political Science Office (SSB 301) no later than Monday, December 6, 3:00 p.m.