TAKE-HOME ESSAY FOR FINAL EXAMINATION

Write a concise essay supporting or disputing the following proposition:

The most important question facing all governments of the Soviet successor states is the building of national identities. Only after they have built strong nation-states can they hope to democratize their polities, reform their economies, and find security within the international system.

Whether you agree or disagree with this statement, you should explain why nation-building is or is not more important than other problems facing the governments of the successor states. This means explaining why strong nation-states will facilitate solutions to the other problems or why other problems must be priorities.

Instructions

1. You should write an essay of no more than five typewritten (double-spaced) pages.

2. Your essay should show good expository style: A thesis statement opens the essay (normally in the very first paragraph) by taking a stand on the proposition above. Subsequent paragraphs develop your central claim logically. Evidence supports major assertions in the logical development of your thesis.

3. Your argument 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 major issues in this course. You will receive much more credit for careful reflection on the lectures and readings than for bringing in outside materials.

4. You may discuss your answer with other students, the graders, 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; the penalties—listed in the university’s general catalog under UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship—have become severe.

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

6. You will probably win the undying gratitude of the graders if your paper does not have a fancy cover. Simply staple the pages at the upper left-hand corner.

7. Please turn in your essay no later than Friday, March 21, 11:30 am.
IN-CLASS PORTION OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION

The in-class portion of the final examination will be administered at two different times. You are free to take the examination at either time:

- Monday, March 17  7:00-10:00 pm  Peterson Hall 104
- Friday, March 21  11:30 am-12:30 pm  Center Hall 119

The in-class portion of the final examination will consist of two questions taken from the list below. You will have one hour to complete these two short essays.

1. “The break-up of the Soviet economy and the attempts at reform have brought enormous problems to the successor states—including economic depression, declining living standards, deep social divisions, corruption, and crime.” Explain.

2. “The fifteen successor states began with similar economic institutions, but over the past decade these economies have diverged increasingly in their institutions and performance.” Describe the different paths taken by the successor-state economies and the explanations for differences in their performance.

3. “Soviet foreign policies have left Russia with a hangover. Since 1991 Russia has not found it easy to reconcile itself to the loss of its superpower status and to liquidate the ‘investments’ in superpower status, such as nuclear weapons and foreign commitments, made by the Soviet leaders.” Explain.

4. “In many Soviet successor states terrorism has both foreign and domestic roots. For the governments of these states the war against international terrorism is inextricably intertwined with nationalist, religious, and even democratic insurgencies at home.” Explain.

Please remember to bring a bluebook to the examination
Please do not bring your notes to the examination