

Ec 82
Political Economy of Africa
Swarthmore College

FINAL EXAM

Prof S. O'Connell

Spring 2008

Answer all 5 questions with short essays. The exam is designed to take 1 ½ hours.

A good essay is analytically clear and draws on country experience.

1. Herbst argues that broad acceptance of juridical statehood was ultimately a barrier to empirical statehood in Africa in the period after independence. If this hypothesis is correct, African states should be strongest in Southern Africa, where South Africa represented, until 1994, a serious threat to the borders of its neighbors. How well does the hypothesis do from this perspective?
2. Using Azam's 'peaceful cone' diagram, explain the difference between buying the peace and deterrence. Give an example of each strategy, from Africa's post-independence experience. Critically evaluate Azam's reinterpretation of policy distortions as constructive responses to latent conflict.
3. Mkandawire and Soludo argue that the structural adjustment policies pushed by the World Bank during the 1980s and 1990s were poorly suited to achieving long-run growth. Choose an element of their critique that you consider important. Explain this element of their critique and evaluate the degree to which their alternative paradigm addresses it.
4. The Millennium Challenge Account represents a sharp departure in how the United States allocates a large portion of its bilateral aid to African countries. Would you be pleased to see other major donors adopt similar designs? Explain with reference to ongoing debates about aid effectiveness.
5. After more than two decades of rapid export-led growth, China's economy – about 50 percent bigger than Africa's in 1980 – is now more than 5 times the size of Africa's. China buys African primary commodity exports, provides substantial foreign direct investment into minerals extraction (e.g., oil), competes with African countries in industrial-country markets for labor-intensive exports, and brings a 'new and different' source of bilateral foreign aid to the table. Drawing on the Ndulu *et al.* (2007) book or other relevant materials, briefly discuss the impact of China's emergence on growth prospects in SSA.