**Burnell, Randall & Rakner: Politics in the Developing World 4e**

**Study questions**

**Chapter 3**

1. How do the two case studies complement each other in illustrating the interrelationship between informal and formal institutions?
2. What is ‘new’ with new institutionalism?
3. How are typical economic terms such as ‘utility maximization’ and ‘equilibrium’ applied in new institutionalism?
4. What are the different rationales behind the logic of appropriateness and the logic of consequentiality?
5. Give a research question that the rational choice institutionalism approach can help to explain.
6. What is a real world example of the logic of appropriateness?
7. Is there a difference in how the three main approaches to new institutionalism understand the concept of ‘institution’?
8. What function does ‘history’ have in the historical institutionalism approach?
9. Discuss different theoretical perspectives on how institutions emerge.
10. Choose one of the theoretical approaches of new institutionalism and suggest an empirical case that could be analyzed through this approach.
11. What drives institutional change?
12. Some developing countries have adopted a national system of party regulation, whereby parties must field candidates in a certain proportion of constituencies. What can be the impact of such an institutional design?
13. Give an illustration of an intentional institutional design that has failed, or that you consider likely to fail, and discuss possible reasons for its failing.
14. Why may informal institutions be particularly relevant for understanding politics in developing countries?
15. Can the informal institutions in Chile’s electoral system easily ‘travel’ to countries with other geographical, social, and political contexts, but with similar formal electoral systems?
16. What is a good constitution? And how does the design of a constitution impact on political life and society in developing countries today?
17. Can the actors responsible for crafting democratic political systems in African countries during the third wave of democracy deliberately have designed formal institutions to interact with informal institutions with the purpose of achieving certain political ends? Discuss and provide examples.
18. What are the most important criticisms of new institutionalism?
19. Do you agree with Remmer (1997) who finds it ‘ironic that new institutionalism places politicians and bureaucrats at the centre of analysis at a time when the activities, resources and relative weight of the state are being reduced through processes of privatization, globalisation, and the emphasis on civil society’?
20. Are there any interrelationships between formal and informal institutions that are common both in developing and developed countries?