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

**Study questions**

**Chapter 8**

1. How strong is the evidence for Huntington's thesis about a 'clash of civilizations'?
2. Do all religions have profound implications for politics in the developing world? Are some religions more liable than others to have consequences that are politically destabilising?
3. How can states harness religion for the purpose of maintaining political order?
4. Are there developing countries where political parties should be forbidden by law from pursuing a sectarian religious agenda?
5. Assess, with examples, the claim that political Islam is incompatible with democracy.
6. In developing countries, which social groups do religiously-based political movements and parties appeal to, and why?
7. Compare and contrast the political role of religion in Latin America and in other regions of the developing world.
8. Discuss, using examples from the developing world, whether and how religion can play a constructive role in politics.
9. Does religion foster or hamper democratization and consolidation of democracy?
10. What do you understand by the term political Islam and what is its political significance?
11. To what degree is political Islam a key factor in understanding the Arab Spring and its consequences?
12. What do you understand by liberation theology and its political significance?
13. Is religion the key to understanding modern Iranian politics?
14. Should countries in the Middle East be expected to democratize if the most likely winners of free and fair elections are Islamist political forces?
15. Do you agree that the political significance of religion in India will decline as modernization, industrialization and urbanization all continue to gather momentum? Give reasons for your answer.
16. To what extent can the increased salience of religion in the politics of many parts of the developing world be explained as a response to modernization?
17. Using examples from the developing world, discuss the circumstances in which religion is politicised.
18. Is the only viable answer to religiously-based conflict a secular constitution? Discuss with reference to specific developing countries.
19. To what extent has the salience of religion in the politics of developing countries been affected by the end of the Cold War?
20. Does Pope Francis’ papacy signal a new era for the Catholic Church in international politics?