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

**Study questions**

**Chapter 9**

1. If women in developing countries are to organize and mobilize for political advancement what strategies are available and what lessons can be learned from their efforts to date?
2. Must women gain economic empowerment first if they are to achieve political equality with men, and how can this be made to happen in a developing country situation?
3. What role have international organizations and women's networks played in promoting gender equity within developing countries?
4. In the developing world, do women fare better under democratic or authoritarian governments?
5. What does a comparison amongst developing countries suggest are the main factors associated with higher rates of women's representation in public political office?
6. In what ways do traditional constructions of femininity, and masculinity, in developing countries, constrain women's political participation?
7. Discuss, drawing on examples from the developing world, the factors influencing the effectiveness of 'women's machinery' in government.
8. What are the conditions that favour most strongly the political organization of women for promoting women's interests in hitherto male-dominated cultures and societies?
9. Why is it that women sometimes play a crucial role in struggles for national political liberation and freedom from dictatorship and tend to be marginalized from power and political influence thereafter?
10. Should public policies be gender neutral or recognize gender difference? In the latter case, should this apply both to biological factors and social constructions?
11. What is gender mainstreaming?
12. What is the difference between sex and gender? And why is this important?
13. What explains the enormous variations in access to free abortion across the developing world?
14. How does gender intersect with other identities?
15. To what extent did colonialism influence gender relations in developing countries?
16. Comparing the three cases – Brazil, Pakistan and South Korea – which has been the most successful in terms of women’s issues, and why?
17. Female presidents in both Brazil and South Korea were impeached. Do you think there is a gender dimension to these power struggles?
18. Have gender quotas helped advance women’s rights?
19. Discuss the pros and cons of framing women’s rights as human rights.
20. Recently, issues around Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) have emerged on the agenda of a number of developing countries. Why is this the case and why are they so contentious?