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

**Study questions**

**Chapter 12**

1. Which countries in the developing world best exemplify the positive features of a developmental state, and why?
2. How has the perception of the appropriate role for the state in development changed among donor institutions and why?
3. Discuss different conceptions of the modern state and how it relates to some of the examples in the book.
4. What do we mean by failed states? Discuss using relevant examples from the book.
5. Are states being displaced by non-state actors as the primary unit of analysis in developing country politics?
6. What was the legacy of colonial rule for the state in newly independent countries of the developing world and does it continue to have a bearing?
7. Do you agree that a prerequisite for democratic consolidation is a strong state?
8. What explains state weakness in the developing world? Compare two developing countries with different types of states.
9. Why does the struggle to capture state power tend to be so intense in developing countries?
10. Discuss, with reference to the experience of developing countries, the claim that strong and effective states are inconceivable without strong economies.
11. Compare and contrast the features of a developmental state and of a 'rentier' state.
12. Are there any necessary conditions for a developmental state to emerge?
13. Does the developing world provide evidence for the proposition that strong states underpin stable democracy?
14. How do you make sense of the paradoxical combination of despotic (coercive) power and weak infrastructural or transformative capacities that has been said to characterise many developing world states?
15. Why has state formation in the developing and developed world evolved so differently?
16. What are the main impediments to successful state formation in developing countries today?
17. Can state-building be undertaken from abroad, and what are some of the caveats of such a process?
18. 'Although globalization has been said to undermine state autonomy vis-à-vis the rest of the world it could also be responsible for increasing the autonomy of states in the developing world vis-à-vis their own society.' Explain and discuss.
19. Is it possible to have a developmental state that is also democratic? Discuss with reference to countries in the developing world.
20. How can impartial bureaucracies be created in developing countries?