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

**Study questions**

**Chapter 21**

1. What type of regime was Syria prior to the civil war that started in 2011?
2. Are big powers like Russia and the United States preoccupied with Syria, if yes, why?
3. Is there an ethnic component to the conflict?
4. How important were the previous mobilizations in Tunisia and Egypt during the Arab Spring for the uprising?
5. What are some of the lessons for Social Movement Theory when taking into account the Syrian case?
6. Which view or what combination of views (from box 21.1) on political violence in Syria do you find most convincing?
7. What are the transnational dimensions of the conflict?
8. Compare the uprisings during the Arab Spring. Why did the Syrian turn out so differently from the others?
9. What would it take to end the Syrian war?
10. What are some of the factors that can explain civil wars? Compare Syria with another case and discuss.