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

**Study questions**

**Chapter 26**

1. Is underdevelopment a self-perpetuating phenomenon, and if so how can countries like Guatemala ever begin to enjoy sustained development?
2. Do examples like Guatemala show that underdevelopment is more a product of a country's domestic social structure than of its external economic and political relations?
3. Although political exclusion may be harmful, are there both advantages and disadvantages to the integration of minority communities of indigenous peoples into the political system of a country like Guatemala?
4. What are the main human rights challenges facing Guatemala today? Are they reflective of a regional trend?
5. Is extreme social and economic inequality in Guatemala best seen as a cause or as a consequence of Guatemala's system of government?
6. In the light of their experience of democracy would the people of Guatemala be justified in turning their backs on democracy?
7. Have Guatemala's political parties made a positive or a negative contribution to political stability and to democracy in the country?
8. What are the main indications of bad governance? Which ones are present in contemporary Guatemala?
9. Under what conditions would you see the state in Guatemala turning into a developmental state and what are the chances of those conditions emerging in the foreseeable future?
10. To what extent have ethnic differences shaped or been reflected in the character of Guatemalan politics?