

SAMPLE EXERCISE: CLASSIFICATIONS

Prepared for PS 103

PS 103 Lesson Plan: Week of 12 March 2007

Causes of War

1) Territory and Secession Conflicts

- a. Irredentism – def: regaining territory lost to another state (ex: 1885 Bulgaria/Turkey/Serbia War)
- b. Border Disputes – control of national borders and disputed tracts of land, often resulting from colonization (ex: War of 1812)
- c. Secession – def: effort to withdraw from an existing state by an ethnic or religious group (ex: Kosovo)

2) Economic Conflicts

- a. Usually over trade routes –both land and water (ex: Suez Canal, Spratly Islands in South Pacific)
- b. Also can apply to trade rights

3) Conflicts of over National Governments (Succession)

- a. Coup d'états – military coups, etc. to take over the government from the current ruling elite (ex: 2006 Thailand)
- b. External intervention to remove current ruling elite of a nation and replace it with a regime sympathetic to external power (ex: 2003 Iraq War)

4) Ethnic/Religious/Ideological Conflicts

- a. Def: of ethnic group = individuals who share ancestral, linguistic, cultural or religious ties **and** a common identity
- b. Van Evera – three factors:
 - i. Immediate factors – statehood status; attitude toward Diaspora; attitude toward “other”; state policies (minority rights)
 - ii. Long-term factors – geographic location of minority; political/environmental factors
 - iii. Perceptual factors – mythmaking and image of self

War Classification Exercise:

1. Each student will receive a one-page summary of a different war.
2. Read summary and determine the following:
 - a. Main participants?
 - b. Where the war took place?
 - c. When the war took place and how long it lasted?
 - d. What TYPE of war is this? (note: more than one may apply!)
 - e. What was the significance of this war? (at least one interesting/important point)
3. Write the name of your war under one or more of the four classifications listed on the board and be prepared to give a 30-second presentation of your war.