Final Take-Home Exam

Write a 8-10 page essay one of the following themes:

1. The economic, social, and sometimes political processes we label development—processes that yield an increase on average in the material prosperity of a society, that typically produce a socially more heterogeneous society, and that sometimes provoke demands for greater popular participation in politics—also have significant unintended, perhaps unexpected consequences. Among these repercussions of economic growth and industrialization are urbanization, increased degradation of the natural environment, changes in the distribution of income in society, and pressures to change the relationship of men and women within the family. Choose one of those consequences of development and explain how socioeconomic development produces that outcome. Cite specific examples from your readings and/or the videos we watched in class. Describe how that particular consequence may be a problem for a society in the process of development, including the political ramifications of that effect of development. Since socioeconomic development tends to yield these side effects that pose serious challenges to a society, is development worth it? Should it be the goal of a society? Or, to put it another way, was the grocer of Balgat right, or the chief?

2. Many writers argue that globalization has reshaped the dynamics of world development. What exactly is globalization? When and how has it come to influence the development strategies followed in the countries of the Third World? In formulating your answer, be sure to articulate how you see development as proceeding before the age of globalization. In doing so, address these issues: what have been the goals of development? Who or what institutions have steered the development process? What aspects of globalization are reshaping development strategies? Is the prospect for development brighter or dimmer in the age of globalization? Cite specific examples from your readings and/or the videos we watched in class.

This exam is due at 11:30 am on December 19 at my office (3 Horwitz House). Be sure to cite your sources.

Enjoy your holidays!