

Government 1521 First Paper Question

Read the first eight chapters of Coffman, *The Regulars*, and Chapters 4 and 7 of Skowronek, *Building a New American State*. Using two of the four theoretical frameworks reviewed in our course thus far – (1) Weberian/contingency, (2) behavioral/cognitive, (3) contractual/transaction-cost, and (4) cultural/reputational – address the two following questions:

- (a) how do these two theories illuminate features of the narrative? What successful “predictions” or interpretations do these theories offer? In other words, what about the narratives do these two theories explain well?
- (b) how does the narrative show the limits of these theories? In other words, what would these theories predict that does not occur in these cases, and what occurs in these cases that is not predicted or well explained by the theory?

Your paper should be four to six pages, double spaced, and should be submitted by Monday, March 2, 2009, 8PM. One electronic copy of your paper should be sent to Professor Carpenter at dcarpenter@gov.harvard.edu, no later than 8:31:00 PM of the due date.