
Contents

List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	x
Preface	xi
Chapter 1. Statement of the Problem	1
1.1 Why Do We Need a Mathematical Theory in History?	1
1.2 Historical Dynamics as a Research Program	3
1.2.1 Delimiting the Set of Questions	4
1.2.2 A Focus on Agrarian Polities	4
1.2.3 The Hierarchical Modeling Approach	5
1.2.4 Mathematical Framework	5
1.3 Summary	7
Chapter 2. Geopolitics	9
2.1 A Primer of Dynamics	9
2.1.1 Boundless Growth	9
2.1.2 Equilibrium Dynamics	11
2.1.3 Boom/Bust Dynamics and Sustained Oscillations	12
2.1.4 Implications for Historical Dynamics	14
2.2 The Collins Theory of Geopolitics	16
2.2.1 Modeling Size and Distance Effects	16
2.2.2 Positional Effects	20
2.2.3 Conflict-legitimacy Dynamics	23
2.3 Conclusion: Geopolitics as a First-order Process	25
2.4 Summary	27
Chapter 3. Collective Solidarity	29
3.1 Groups in Sociology	29
3.1.1 Groups as Analytical Units	29
3.1.2 Evolution of Solidaristic Behaviors	31
3.1.3 Ethnic Groups and Ethnicity	33
3.1.4 The Social Scale	34
3.1.5 Ethnies	36
3.2 Collective Solidarity and Historical Dynamics	36
3.2.1 Ibn Khaldun's Theory	38
3.2.2 Gumilev's Theory	40
3.2.3 The Modern Context	42
3.3 Summary	47

Chapter 4. The Metaethnic Frontier Theory	50
4.1 Frontiers as Incubators of Group Solidarity	50
4.1.1 Factors Causing Solidarity Increase	51
4.1.2 Imperial Boundaries and Metaethnic Fault Lines	53
4.1.3 Scaling-up Structures	57
4.1.4 Placing the Metaethnic Frontier Theory in Context	59
4.2 Mathematical Theory	63
4.2.1 A Simple Analytical Model	64
4.2.2 A Spatially Explicit Simulation	68
4.3 Summary	75
Chapter 5. An Empirical Test of the Metaethnic Frontier Theory	78
5.1 Setting Up the Test	78
5.1.1 Quantifying Frontiers	79
5.1.2 Polity Size	81
5.2 Results	83
5.2.1 Europe: 0–1000 c.e.	83
5.2.2 Europe: 1000–1900 c.e.	86
5.3 Positional Advantage?	89
5.4 Conclusion: The Making of Europe	91
5.5 Summary	92
Chapter 6. Ethnokinetics	94
6.1 Allegiance Dynamics of Incorporated Populations	94
6.2 Theory	95
6.2.1 Nonspatial Models of Assimilation	95
6.2.2 Spatially Explicit Models	99
6.3 Empirical Tests	104
6.3.1 Conversion to Islam	105
6.3.2 The Rise of Christianity	111
6.3.3 The Growth of the Mormon Church	112
6.4 Conclusion: Data Support the Autocatalytic Model	113
6.5 Summary	116
Chapter 7. The Demographic-Structural Theory	118
7.1 Population Dynamics and State Breakdown	118
7.2 Mathematical Theory	121
7.2.1 The Basic Demographic-Fiscal Model	121
7.2.2 Adding Class Structure	127
7.2.3 Models for Elite Cycles	131
7.2.4 Models for the Chinese Dynastic Cycle	137
7.2.5 Summing up Theoretical Insights	138
7.3 Empirical Applications	140
7.3.1 Periodic Breakdowns of Early Modern States	140
7.3.2 The Great Wave	143
7.3.3 After the Black Death	145
7.4 Summary	148

Chapter 8. Secular Cycles in Population Numbers	150
8.1 Introduction	150
8.2 "Scale" and "Order" in Human Population Dynamics	150
8.3 Long-Term Empirical Patterns	155
8.3.1 Reconstructions of Historical Populations	155
8.3.2 Archaeological Data	161
8.4 Population Dynamics and Political Instability	164
8.5 Summary	167
Chapter 9. Case Studies	170
9.1 France	170
9.1.1 The Frontier Origins	170
9.1.2 Secular Waves	176
9.1.3 Summary	184
9.2 Russia	184
9.2.1 The Frontier Origins	184
9.2.2 Secular Waves	191
9.2.3 Summary	196
Chapter 10. Conclusion	197
10.1 Overview of Main Developments	197
10.1.1 Asabiya and Metaethnic Frontiers	197
10.1.2 Ethnic Assimilation	198
10.1.3 Demographic-Structural Theory	199
10.1.4 Geopolitics	199
10.2 Combining Different Mechanisms into an Integrated Whole	200
10.3 Broadening the Focus of Investigation	203
10.4 Toward Theoretical Cliodynamics?	204
Appendix A. Mathematical Appendix	205
A.1 Translating the Hanneman Model into Differential Equations	205
A.2 The Spatial Simulation of the Frontier Hypothesis	206
A.3 Demographic-Structural Models with Class Structure	208
A.4 Models for Elite Cycles	212
Appendix B. Data Summaries for the Test of the Metaethnic Frontier Theory	214
B.1 Brief Descriptions of "Cultural Regions"	214
B.2 Quantification of Frontiers	215
B.3 Quantification of Polity Sizes: The First Millennium c.e.	224
B.4 Quantification of Polity Sizes: The Second Millennium c.e.	225
Bibliography	226
Index	243