Outline - Mansfield/Snyder 1995

* In a transitional state to democracy, states more likely to go to war, even against other democracies
* Probability higher for democratizers than stable autocratic states
* Pattern of domestic political competition for power after breakup of autocracy conducive to conflict - elites find that mass allies, once mobilized, are difficult to control
* Aftershock of failed democratization a factor in explaining link between autocratization and war
* Analyze whether democratization during periods of 1, 5, 10 years is associated with involvement in subsequent periods of same length
* Probability of war for democratizers always exceeds that for states with no regime change
* More dramatic the transition, higher the probability for war
* Autocratization also dangerous, but less so than democratization - less likely to lead to war over the short run than in the long run
* Causal mechanism: Elites use nationalist appeals compete for mass allies
* Interests of elites and prestige strategies make war likely
* democratizing and autocratizing states share common institutional weaknesses
* Stable democracies fight wars as often as other states, but...
* Tend to win
* Likely to abandon overcommitments
* Don't fight preventive wars
* Have norms of conflict resolution - voter pays the costs of war
* All this emerges in the long run - in the short run face challenges of social groups who lose out in democratization, and weak institutions which are only haphazardly accountable to the electorate
* Groups w/ interest in retarding democratization also those with interest in war
* Short-run policy making conducive to war:
* Widened political spectrum - more groups mean less compatible interests
* Inflexible interests and short time horizons - threatened groups unwilling to compromise
* Competitive mass mobilization - mobilization of allies on elites' terms using their resources in competitive setting - single elite rarely controls the process
* Weak central authority - dissolution of autocratic control not immediately replaced with effective democratic counterpart
* War-prone tactics in democratization:
* Logrolling - give each elite group what it most wants - most likely leads to conflict
* Squaring the circle - try to make sense of contradictory policies emerging from conflicting interests - foreign policies make too many enemies
* Prestige strategies - create domestic legitimacy by seeking victories abroad
* Wars of re-autocratization part of larger phenomenon of wars of democratization
* Democratization least likely to result in war when old elites have reasonably bright future