Foreign Politics. Description of Assignment: In this assignment, you will be writing a research paper. The purpose of this assignment is to expand on the previous work in this class. Your goal is to write a well-researched and supported paper that directly answers one (1) of the questions outlined below. This final requires you to write a research paper that is a minimum of five full pages and a maximum of seven full pages. The purpose of the page limit is to help strengthen your ability to identify critical information and to prevent “fluff”. Remember, words matter. Questions (PICK ONE): 1. Throughout this semester, we have discussed the similarities and differences between democratic and non-democratic regimes. With this dichotomy in mind, is there a relationship between a country’s international standing (e.g., World Happiness Index, GINI, HDI, economic prosperity, etc.) and their respective regime type? Do rich countries become democracies more readily than poorer ones? Are non-democratic regimes always disadvantaged against democratic regimes? Reflect on these questions as you provide your answer. 2. What is a political norm? Do political norms matter? Is there interplay between political norms and legitimacy? Please provide specific examples when answering each question. 3. Throughout this semester, we have discussed the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. By analyzing the various responses by the international community, a thread of unity in response can be seen across many of the countries. Why has most of the international community joined in a united, targeted approach towards Russia in this crisis? What is at stake should Russia gain control of Ukraine? What justification(s) does Russia claim for the necessity of the invasion? Are these justifications compelling and legitimate? 4. Throughout this semester, we have discussed several instances of countries experiencing “democratic backsliding”. Utilizing Nancy Bermeo’s foundational work, do you find this idea convincing/compelling? What do you attribute as the cause(s) of democratic backsliding? Are all democracies prone to backsliding? If so, is backsliding inevitable? Please provide specific examples to support your response. 5. When analyzing the rise and establishment of statehood across Europe’s history, Charles Tilly said, “war made the state and the state made war”. Do you agree with this statement? Are there instances outside of Europe that challenge this statement? Please provide specific examples to support your position. 6. When analyzing non-democratic regimes, it is evident that many of these systems maintain many political institutions found in democracies. What is the purpose of a non-democratic regime allowing the establishment of political opposition, holding elections, and/or allowing public dissent? Please provide specific countries and examples within them to support your response. 7. Scholars have often argued that countries with an abundance of resources fall victim to the “resource curse”. Please describe what this “curse” is and provide concrete examples (verifiable, empirical evidence) that support or challenge the claim that the “curse” exists. 8. Following the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021, the topic of nation-building has been thrust into the limelight. What is nation-building? When is nationbuilding effective in establishing a stable government/system? When does nation-building fail? What complications exist in the application of nation-building? Please provide specific examples when answering each question. 9. When looking at the world’s approach towards addressing climate change, we can see several instances of the international community coming together to draft agreements and policies. However, when these conferences, meetings, and summits conclude, it can be argued that little materializes in domestic policies. By analyzing these conferences, when has the international community made considerable progress in addressing climate concerns? Why has it been so difficult to unite the international community in meeting the moment against this existential threat? Please provide specific examples to answer each question. Paper Guidelines When writing a research paper, it is important that you support your position with concrete, empirical evidence. It is also critically important that you provide a logical connection throughout the paper. With these points in mind, the following criteria is the basis for the grading rubric: 1. You answer one of the questions 2. Minimum five full pages, maximum seven full pages a. Cover page/citations/bibliography DO NOT count to the page count 3. 12pt. Times New Roman or Arial font 4. 1” margins 5. Double-spaced 6. You provide proper citations when appropriate (Footnotes) 7. You have a clearly defined thesis in your introduction 8. The main body of the essay demonstrates the thesis 9. Each paragraph is logically connected 10. You do not make factually incorrect statements 11. You utilize concrete examples and empirical evidence to illustrate and support your point/position 12. You define/explain key terms and avoid unnecessary jargon 13. You utilize external readings to support your claims/positions when appropriate 14. You have a strong final paragraph that summarizes your essay 15. You submit your paper on time through Turnitin on Canvas