1) Relations of oil dependence condition rentier states’ internal and external security strategies.

2) Patterns of dependence are determined by the opportunity costs of altering a trade relationship between two countries.

3) Without examining current and capital expenditures separately, one cannot accurately diagnose the mechanism of buying off legitimacy.

4) Dependence on oil imports can constrain consuming countries’ foreign policy, but denying market access can also provide a powerful foreign policy instrument.

5) Changing oil suppliers does not end consuming countries’ dependence on Middle Eastern oil producers.

6) To mitigate economic and political vulnerability, an effective strategy for consumers is to diversify sources of oil imports, and for producers to diversify oil clients.

7) Despite efforts to diversify away from oil and increase efficiency, oil will remain the most important source of energy for the near future.

8) Trade relationships do not always involve relations of dependence.

9) For explaining the stability of authoritarianism, the political economy approach is a powerful alternative to reductionist political culture arguments.

10) The Middle East is not *sui generis*, but can provide a fertile ground for international relations scholars to develop and test theories.

11) History is not always a reliable guide for judging the present.

12) Living between cultures is challenging but also culturally and intellectually stimulating.