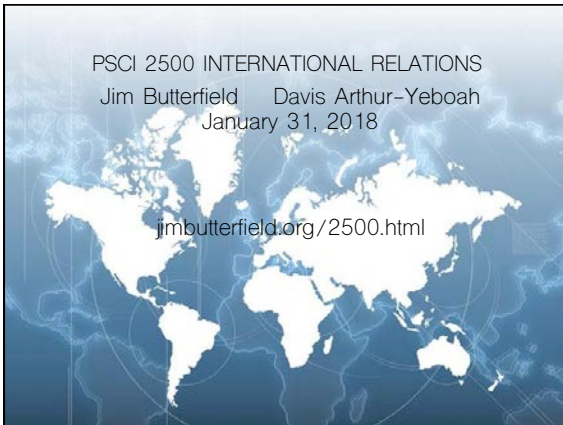


PSCI 2500 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Jim Butterfield Davis Arthur-Yeboah
January 31, 2018


jimbutterfield.org/2500.html



Announcements


- Exam I is one week from today.
- More information on the exam will be come at the end of class today.

How does the international system work?





The Attempt to End War

- After WWI: League of Nations (1920) – 42 members.
 - An international institution designed to resolve conflict.
- Kellogg–Briand Pact (1928) – 62 signatories.
 - Commitment to not resort to war to resolve conflicts ("making war illegal").



Conflicts broke out all through the 1930s.

Both the League and the Pact were moribund by the time Germany invaded Poland in 1939.



"Realism"

- The idealism of the League and the Pact were ridiculed by critics. The response: "realism."
 - There is no place for morality and ethics in international relations.




**** Realism**

- A view of the world that believes:
 - States will naturally seek to maximize their power.
 - Conflict is the normal state of affairs.
 - The world is anarchic.
 - **** Anarchy:** the absence of a central overarching authority. (Not the same as chaos.)

Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)

- "The life of man is solitary, nasty, brutish and short."
- The only counterbalance to misery and anarchy is a strong state to impose order.
- We willingly trade liberty for order and security.
- Realists believe the world works the same way.



Realism

- The 3 S's:
 - Statism.
 - Survival.
 - Self-help.



STATISM



SURVIVAL



SELF-HELP

Realism: Statism


- There is no sovereign world order (i.e., no world government).
 - In other words, the international system is anarchic.
- Only the state can ensure order and protect national interests.



World government does not exist except in science fiction.

Realism: Survival

- Kissinger: "a nation's survival is its first and ultimate responsibility; it cannot be compromised or put to risk."
- The means justify the ends; immoral acts may have to be carried out for the greater good.



Henry Kissinger,
National Security
Advisor and
Secretary of State
from late 1960s to
late 1970s.

Realism: Self-Help

- Alliances may be helpful, but ultimately a state has to guarantee its own security.
- Self-interest is more important than collective goods.
 - Collective goods – examples: global security, environmental protection.

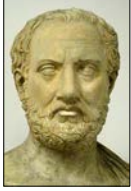
Realism

- "The sad fact is that international politics has always been a ruthless and dangerous business..."
- "The overriding goal of each state is to maximize its share of world power, which means gaining power at the expense of other states."

– John Mearsheimer

Realism

- "The strong do what they have the power to do and the weak accept what they have to accept."



– Thucydides (4th C BCE)

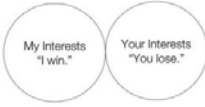
The Realisms

- Classical realism: maximizing power is the natural order.
 - i.e., realism is the result of human nature.
- Structural realism: the anarchic nature of international political forces states to maximize power.
 - It doesn't matter what type of state – capitalist, communist, fascist, democratic, non-democratic – they will all act the same.

Realists Conception of Power

- Power as a relative concept.
- It is a zero-sum game. When one actor gains power, another loses.

Zero Sum



George H. W. Bush and the "New World Order"

- Short video of his 1991 speech in the aftermath of the Gulf War.
 - Gulf War: collective effort to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.
- Bush often spoke of a "new world order" to replace the Cold War.

George H.W. Bush, Sept 1991



Realism?

- Bush: "...a new world order, where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause to achieve the universal aspirations of mankind – peace and security, freedom, and the rule of law."
- Realists were very critical of this concept.

Exam I

- One week from today (12:00 sharp).
- From the text:
 - Questions from online quizzes (you can go back and look at them).
- From class:
 - Multiple choice and T/F.
 - Key terms (** items).

Exam I

- From both class and text:
 - Some short answer (1-2 sentences).
 - One short essay question (15 minutes).
- From the North Korea video and the articles on Israel and Russia:
 - Multiple choice and short answer questions.

Exam I

- A study guide will be posted on the web site by Friday or Saturday.
- Remember that Davis and I have office hours on Monday (DAY) and Tuesday (JB).

