

**Course  
Code  
9570**

# **INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**BS International Relations**

**Course Code: 9570**

**Unit: 1-9**



**Department of Politics and International Relations  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities  
ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**

# **INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**(For BS)**

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**Units: 1–9**



**Department of Politics and International Relations  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities ALLAMA IQBAL  
OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**

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## **FOREWORD**

The study of International Relations (IR) has never been more critical than in our interconnected and dynamic world. As globalisation deepens and the complexities of global interactions evolve, understanding the nuances of international systems becomes essential for policymakers, students, and scholars alike. This book, *Introduction to International Relations*, offers a comprehensive exploration of IR, presenting a balanced view of classical foundations and contemporary developments.

Designed to serve as both an academic resource and a practical guide, this book delves into the pivotal theories, concepts, and practices that define IR. It examines the interplay of state and non-state actors, the evolving notions of power, and the challenges posed by an increasingly interconnected world. Topics such as sovereignty, nationalism, diplomacy, and global governance are not only discussed theoretically but also contextualised within real-world scenarios.

Each chapter is structured to provide clarity and coherence, beginning with learning objectives, followed by in-depth discussions, illustrative examples, and self-assessment questions. This format ensures that readers can actively engage with the material, fostering critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the subject.

The book also aims to bridge the gap between academic discourse and practical application. By emphasising the roles of various actors, from nation-states to multinational corporations, and addressing pressing global issues like terrorism, human rights, and environmental challenges, it equips readers with analytical tools to navigate the complex world of international relations.

We hope this book will inspire its readers to delve deeper into the field of International Relations, fostering a generation of informed individuals capable of addressing the world's most pressing issues. Whether you are a student beginning your academic journey or a professional seeking to enhance your understanding, this book offers a pathway to insight and discovery.

**Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood**

**Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the development and publication of this book. First and foremost, I am deeply thankful to **Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad**, particularly the **Department of Politics and International Relations**, for providing institutional support and platform to produce this academic work.

I am especially grateful to **Prof. Dr. Nadeem Mirza**, whose insightful review helped refine the manuscript and enhance its academic rigour. My sincere thanks go to **Saran Qadeer**, the Course Coordinator, for his coordination and continuous encouragement throughout the writing and editing process. I also appreciate **Humera Ejaz** for her valuable editorial contributions and efforts in ensuring clarity and coherence in the text.

I would also like to thank my colleagues, mentors, and students, whose academic engagement and critical questions inspired several of the themes discussed in this book. Their intellectual curiosity reaffirmed the importance of making International Relations accessible and relevant to a new generation of learners.

Lastly, I am grateful to my family for their unwavering support and patience during the long hours of research and writing. This work would not have been possible without their understanding and encouragement.

**Prof. Dr. Adam Saud**

## PREFACE

International Relations (IR) is a field that constantly evolves, reflecting the dynamic and interconnected nature of the world we live in. It is more than just the study of diplomacy and war; it encompasses a wide array of political, economic, and social forces that shape global interactions. The interactions between states, non-governmental actors, international organisations, and individuals are increasingly complex, as globalisation accelerates and the influence of non-state actors grows. Understanding these intricate relationships is essential for comprehending the mechanisms of power, cooperation, and conflict in the modern world.

This book, *Introduction to International Relations*, serves as an accessible and comprehensive guide to the foundational concepts and theories of IR. Designed to provide students, academics, and professionals with a structured approach to the field, it explores the core principles and addresses both classical theories and contemporary global issues. The nine units cover a broad spectrum of topics, each offering a distinct perspective on international relations, from the evolution of the state system to the role of ideologies and the complex dynamics of war and peace.

The first unit sets the stage by introducing the subject and establishing its relevance in understanding global affairs. It leads into discussions of the various theoretical frameworks that provide lenses through which the world's political, economic, and social phenomena are analysed. The book also delves into key concepts such as sovereignty, nationalism, power, national interests, diplomacy, and the role of ideologies in shaping global discourse. Each chapter builds upon the last, creating a cohesive narrative that reflects the complexities and challenges of studying international relations today.

Given the fast-paced and ever-changing nature of global politics, this book recognises the importance of both theoretical analysis and practical application. As such, each unit includes relevant case studies, historical examples, and contemporary events that bring the theories to life and demonstrate their real-world significance. These case studies not only engage readers with the material but also encourage critical thinking and the development of analytical skills that are crucial for anyone seeking to understand or engage in global politics.

Whether you are just beginning your journey into the field of International Relations or are a seasoned scholar looking to refresh your knowledge, this book offers an essential resource for exploring the world of global interactions. It is my hope that it will provide readers with a deeper understanding of the complexities that define our global landscape, fostering a sense of responsibility and engagement with the world around us.

**Prof. Dr Adam Saud**

# INTRODUCTION

International Relations (IR) is a dynamic and interdisciplinary field that examines the interactions among states, international organisations, non-governmental actors, and individuals within a global framework. The field is integral to understanding how power, politics, and cooperation shape the modern world. This book, *Introduction to International Relations*, is designed to guide readers through a foundational understanding of IR across nine comprehensive units, addressing both classical theories and contemporary issues.

## **Unit 1: Introduction to International Relations**

This unit introduces the field of International Relations, emphasising its academic relevance and practical applications. It explores the nature and scope of IR, its significance in the global system, and the evolving role of both state and non-state actors in shaping international dynamics.

## **Unit 2: Approaches to the Study of International Relations**

Different methodologies have been developed to analyse and explain global interactions. This unit examines the major theoretical frameworks of IR, including Realism, Liberalism, and Behavioralism, and their applications in understanding global events and policies.

## **Unit 3: Modern State System and Sovereignty**

This unit traces the evolution of the state system, from the Peace of Westphalia to the challenges of globalization. It discusses the concepts of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and statehood, and addresses modern issues that influence state sovereignty, such as supranational organizations and transnational threats.

## **Unit 4: Doctrine of Power in International Relations**

Power is a central concept in IR, encompassing military, economic, geographic, and demographic dimensions. This unit examines the tangible and intangible sources of power, their implications for global politics, and the strategies states use to influence others.

## **Unit 5: National Interests in International Relations**

National interests drive state behaviour on the global stage. This unit explores the definitions, types, and evolution of national interests, focusing on how states prioritise these interests to maintain security, economic stability, and international influence.

### **Unit 6: Concept of Nationalism**

Nationalism is a potent force shaping global politics. This unit examines the types and historical growth of nationalism, its impact on the modern state system, and its role in significant events such as the Arab Spring.

### **Unit 7: Concept of Diplomacy**

Diplomacy is a critical tool for managing international relations. This unit explores the main functions and tools of diplomacy, with case studies from the Cold War, post-Cold War, and post-9/11 eras, illustrating its relevance in conflict resolution and cooperation.

### **Unit 8: Ideologies in the 21st Century**

The 21st century has witnessed the re-emergence of ideologies that shape global discourse. This unit examines the themes of the “End of History” and the “Clash of Civilisations,” highlighting their influence on modern international relations and fault lines between civilisations.

### **Unit 9: The Concept of War and Peace in International Relations**

This unit explores the dual concepts of war and peace, their interconnectedness, and their evolution in the nuclear and digital eras. It emphasizes the role of confidence-building measures and strategies for conflict resolution to promote global stability.

As with any academic pursuit, the chapters in this book are sequentially designed to build a comprehensive understanding of International Relations. Whether you are a student, an academic, or a professional, this book provides an invaluable resource to navigate the complexities of global politics, power, and cooperation.

**Course Development Coordinator**

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**Unit 1**

# **INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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## INTRODUCTION

International Relations (IR) is a critically important discipline within the social sciences, particularly in the 21st century, where globalisation, geopolitical tensions, and transnational cooperation shape the dynamics of world politics. As nations and non-state actors—such as multinational corporations, international organisations, and advocacy groups—interact in increasingly complex ways, IR provides the analytical tools necessary to understand these relationships. The field examines key issues like state sovereignty, power distribution, conflict resolution, and the effectiveness of international institutions.

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, economic interdependence, and emerging security threats—from cyber warfare to climate change—IR has become indispensable for interpreting global affairs. Policymakers, scholars, and diplomats rely on IR theories and frameworks to navigate challenges such as great-power competition, humanitarian crises, and the enforcement of international law. Additionally, the rise of new global actors, including regional blocs and non-governmental organisations, further complicates traditional state-centric models, requiring fresh perspectives on governance and diplomacy. This unit serves as an essential introduction to the study of IR, offering students a foundation in key concepts, theories, and real-world applications. By exploring different schools of thought, such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism, learners will develop the ability to critically assess international events and trends. Ultimately, this knowledge is crucial not only for academic inquiry but also for informed citizenship and professional engagement in an interconnected world.

This Unit emphasises the conceptual understanding of International Relations as an academic discipline and its growing importance in the contemporary international system. The Unit's central theme attempts to provide the emerging complexities of the international system under the influences of multifaceted non-state actors, which have gained momentous importance parallel to the centuries-old state system. In this way, the combination of state and non-state actors has intensified the classical foundations of the international system, parallel to undermining the conventional patterns of the traditional state system. This scenario has raised the significance of International Relations as an academic discipline in contemporary academic debates. The leading education institutions from around the world have started introducing this discipline in multileveled degree programs. Therefore, this Unit tries to present an initial idea of learning and knowing the subject with certain essential concepts and ideas related to International Relations.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- A Glimpse of the Subject
- Main Objective of the Discipline
- Key Actors in IR
- Defining IR
- Nature of the IR Discipline
- Scope of IR

## **OBJECTIVES**

After reading this unit, you will be able to :

To understand the core concept of International Relations

To define the academic explanation of International Relations

To define the main objectives of the Discipline

To explain the nature of International Relations in education

To discuss the scope of International Relations

## **1.1 A GLIMPSE OF THE SUBJECT**

The study of International Relations (IR) commonly defines the understanding of world politics and its changing patterns under different circumstances while describing the prevailing dichotomies and paradoxes in states' behaviours. The debates on the subject provide a logical comprehension of persistently changing states' policies and their political associations with the neighbours. Extending bilateral relations beyond territorially adjoining nations generally shapes the specific patterns of states' foreign policies under different governments. The mainstream frameworks of states sometimes create contesting relations with other states, but simultaneously, the states' leaders prefer to cooperate with other nations located in different parts of the world. In this way, a regional study of states' varying foreign policies suggests that international relations are based on the complex framework of inter-state relations between states in which cooperation and conflict go parallel.

Moreover, the role of non-state actors in positive and negative dimensions further augments the interactions of states located in different regions and functioning under diverse political administrations. In this list of positive and negative non-state actors, the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), different influential persons, and various terrorist organisations can be considered important. The rise of non-state Actors in the world has additionally brought various changes to the foundations of the classical international system. In this way, the study of IR seeks to provide answers to the questions emerging from the varying patterns of states' interactions at the bilateral and multilateral levels, parallel to underlining the impacts of non-state actors on the international system.

The study of International Relations covers a wide range of topics related to the unstoppable changes of world politics and its undeniable impacts on the positions of states located in different regions. The influences of the persistently evolving international systems lead the subject's focus on various concepts which are difficult to list briefly for the fundamental understanding of the field. Therefore, the specific core concept of the subject, which provides primary knowledge is shown in the mentioned figure.

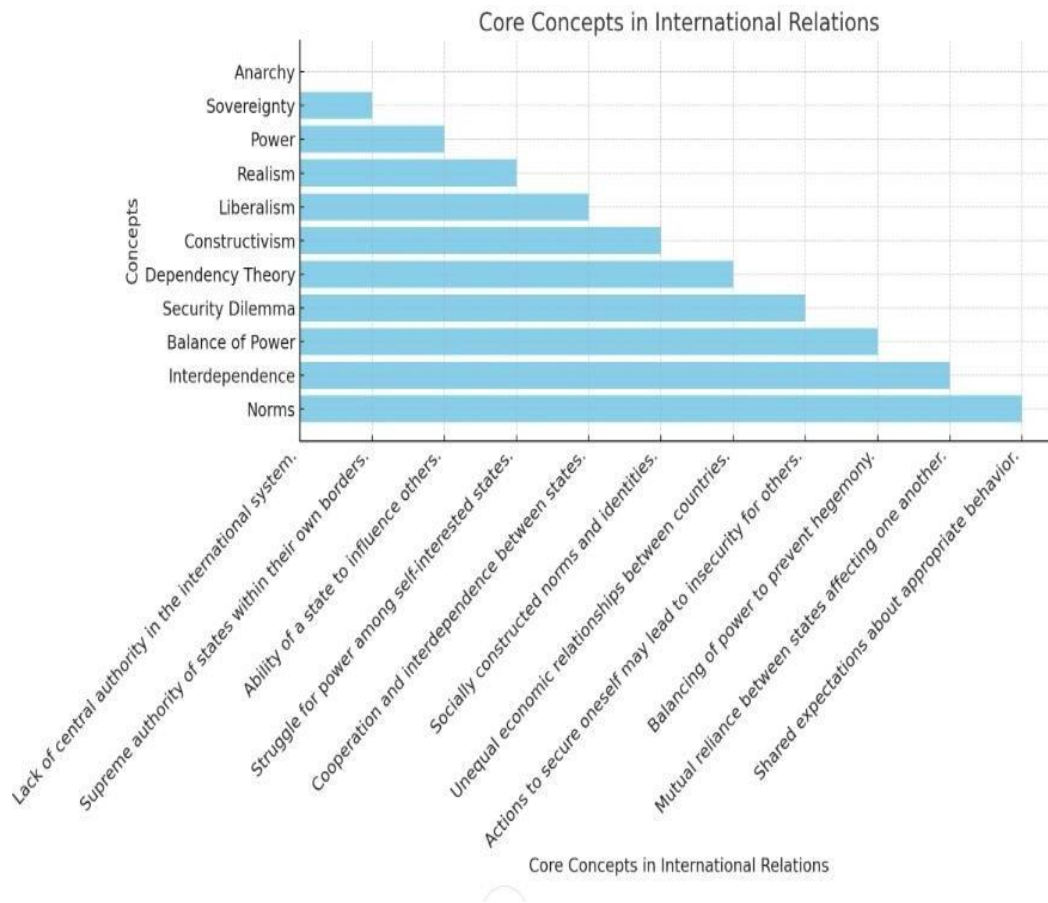


Figure 1.1

Based on the above-mentioned description of the IR discipline and its core concepts, the focus of the IR discipline can be understood with the support of the following objectives.

## 1.2 MAIN OBJECTIVES OF DISCIPLINE

1. The study of IR emphasises the roles and positions of states in the international system, which could be treated as the understanding of State behaviour and its diverse policies to the outside world. The diverse state policies generally create varying patterns of foreign policies for maintaining specific patterns of relations with the outside world. An understanding of such relations could be obtained from the government's formulated national interests and specific strategies.
2. The impacts of states' varying foreign policies on the international system generally create a complex format of world politics in which the leaders' contesting behaviours and cooperative interactions with their counterparts are important

studies. Thus, the study of international relations provides logical frameworks to understand issues of global importance such as terrorism, power politics, strategic contests, economic inequalities, diplomatic competitions, and human rights.

3. The study of IR generally facilitates its readers to comprehend the prevailing complications of the international system by analysing the growing cooperative and conflicting scenarios between states. It additionally enables the readers to formulate different strategies to address the mainstream causes of conflict in the world and their peaceful settlement under the defined frameworks of conflict resolution. In this way, the quest for finding long-term and sustainable solutions to the global problem generally results in various efforts of peace-building, arms control and disarmament, and global peace and stability.
4. IR discipline presents a holistic picture of international power politics in which the global power dynamics and their constantly evolving scenarios shape the varying behaviours of states located in different regions. The appropriate understanding of the states' strategic disagreements and forming alliances based on territorial and extra-territorial connections contains immense implications for global power politics and its unstoppable impacts on the various regional politics.
5. The understanding of international systems and their formation of multileveled pressures on the state governments generally create a specific outlook of world politics. The IR discipline presents a rational comprehension of world politics and its undeniable connections with different regional politics. The combination of regional and international power politics mainly helps the policymakers of different governments to enhance their formal positions in the world by improving their decision-making capabilities. These capabilities further assist the governments in adopting specific behaviour against the emerging pressures of regional and global structures on states.

These objectives could further be focused with the help of the following figure.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Peace and Security</b>	To maintain global order through the promotion of peace and security
<b>Conflict Resolution</b>	To address the root causes of different conflicts between and within states
<b>Economic Cooperation</b>	To advance the cooperative economic collaboration of states in multiple Directions
<b>Cultural Exchange</b>	To increase the cultural and societal understanding of the nations under specific political patterns

<b>Human Rights</b>	To protect and defend the mainstream human rights issues for countering the humanitarian crisis
<b>Global Governance</b>	To develop an appropriate understanding of global norms of governance

**Table 1.2**

### 1.3. KEY ACTORS IN IR

Apart from the mentioned objectives of studying the IR discipline, the following chart could provide a brief picture of the conceptual foundations of the subject.

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Actors</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>01.</b>	States	Maintaining sovereignty and defending independent values, Formulating foreign relations and diplomatic interactions.
<b>02.</b>	International Organizations	Developing inter-governmental frameworks (UN, IMF,WTO)
<b>03.</b>	Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)	Aligning beyond state-government to address specific issues such as Human Rights, Environment, Poverty, AIDS etc.
<b>04.</b>	Multinational Corporations (MNCs)	The business industry has transnational networks like telecom companies
<b>05.</b>	Individuals	Rising influential personalities such as Bill Gates, Osama Bin Laden, Elon Musk, Mother Teresa, etc.
<b>06.</b>	Extra-Territorial Alliances	Formulation of extra-territorial alliances between states beyond the multilateral groupings of territorially or regionally adjoining nations. (Arab League, OIC,NATO etc)

**Table 1.3**

The actors are the foundational elements of the IR discipline, and different debates in this discipline on various topics generally revolve around these actors and their varying interactions. The combination of cooperative and conflicting interactions between these actors develops a complex picture of the international system and complicates the understanding of IR discipline. The fluctuating functioning of these actors allows the international system to function around the globe corresponding to shaping specific inter-state and intra-state attributes of states.

## 1.4. DEFINING IR

The existing literature concerning the foundations of IR discipline presents several definitions developed by different authors. Thus, a few definitions gained valuable importance worldwide, which are the following.

- a. "International Relations is the study of the relations of states with each other and with international organisations and certain subnational entities (e.g., bureaucracies, political parties, and interest groups)."

Joshua Goldstein and Jon C. Pevehouse present this classical definition in their famous study of the book *International Relations*. This definition primarily emphasizes bilateral and multilateral interactions of states located in different regions, in addition to highlighting the positions of various entities in the international and regional systems.

- b. "International Relations refers to the interaction of nation-states and non-state actors in areas such as diplomacy, conflict, trade, and international organisations."

Stephen McGlinchey's modern definition from his famous work, *Foundations of International Relations* focused on the growing alignments of non-state actors in the international system. These actors are becoming more influential and powerful than the state actors in certain cases and comprise sufficient potential for bringing gigantic changes in the world.

The IR literature is full of varying conceptualisations of the discipline, reflecting different perceptions of authors from diverse backgrounds and dissimilar intellectual properties. In this way, a brief overview of these definitions is given below.

"International Relations is the discipline that studies political, economic, and social interactions across state boundaries, encompassing global challenges and solutions."

"The study of International Relations involves understanding the distribution of power, the causes of conflict, and the institutions designed to manage cooperation among states."

"International Relations is the study of how states, institutions, and individuals act on the global stage to address international challenges such as peace, security, and human rights."

"International Relations examines how ideas, norms, and identities shape the behaviour of states and other actors in the global arena."

"International Relations is the study of how the world works, focusing on global issues like diplomacy, trade, war, and environmental policy to understand and improve global cooperation."

## 1.5. NATURE OF IR DISCIPLINE

The IR subject's nature is primarily interdisciplinary while covering diverse fields addressing various issues related to politics, economics, history, diplomatic diplomacy, and security. The field is broader in scope and has strong tendencies of continued changes based on cross-cutting and fluctuating inter-state interactions. The conceptual understandings of world politics lead this discipline towards several theories and their rational connections with the changing dynamics of international power politics. The multidisciplinary nature of the discipline could be further understood with the help of the following.

- **Theoretical Diversity:** It deals with the different sets of arguments emerging from diverse schools of thought.
- **Dynamic and Evolving:** It always focuses on the persistently evolving structure of global power politics and their overwhelming influences on the evolution of the international system.
- **Ethical and Normative:** It emphasises the worldwide promotion of normative values to secure the fundamental conceptions of human rights, peace, justice, and development.
- **Practical Applications:** The rational study of complex international relations generally enables state leaders, academicians, and diplomats to comprehend the changing nature of world politics.
- **Underlining Globalisation:** The core theme of the IR subject concentrates on the prevailing shadow of a new world in the classical patterns of world politics, in which globalisation has become a multidimensional phenomenon, widening the nature of the IR discipline and mainstream focusing areas.
- **Varying Regional Politics:** Studying IR deals with the constantly evolving political landscapes of different regions based on the fluctuating interactions of states at the bilateral and multilateral levels. The analytical frameworks of regional politics always remained under the influence of international power politics.

The discussion on the nature of the IR discipline cannot be completed without understanding appropriately the specific levels of analysis. These analytical levels offer different perspectives to the readers from leading scholarly and professional circles to identify the causes of different changes occurring in different parts of the world. These levels could be understood on the following points.

1. **Individual Level Analysis:** Concentrates on the influences of individuals, such as diplomats, leaders, and policy-makers to investigate the impacts of

these personalities on the broader power politics.

2. **State Level Analysis:** This level is commonly known as the domestic or national level due to its focus on the domestic state's attributes and its positions in bringing specific changes. These changes are linked with the internal state structures like the political system, economic situations, and societal contexts.
3. **System Level Analysis:** This form of analysis looks into the changing nature of the international system and its prevailing scenarios, defining the structure of world politics, power distribution, and rising multilateral alliances.

A comprehensive understanding of the three levels of analysis is reflected in the chart below.

Level	Focus	Key Aspect	Examples
Individual	Leaders, decision-makers, personal motives	Psychology, leadership, and biases	Hitler in WWII, Gandhi and Jinnah's leadership
State	Domestic politics, national policies	Institutions, economy, culture	Brexit, US-China Relations
System	International structure, global dynamics	Anarchy, power balance, global norms	Cold War, UN's role in conflicts

**Table 1.4**

Each level presents a different outlook on the international system and its exceptional nature in introducing certain perspectives on global events and states' diverse behaviours. The combination of three levels helps in creating a multileveled understanding of the constantly working global power politics.

Further understanding of the three levels is listed below;

Analysis Level	Description	Application
<b>Individual Level</b>	Individual Traits	Actions of key individual figures(government officials)
<b>State Level</b>	National or Domestic Factors	Positions of state- -governments and their distinct models of foreign policies
<b>System Level</b>	Global Power Structure	Dynamics and distribution of power across the globe

**Table 1.5**

## 1.6. SCOPE OF IR

As IR focuses on the understanding of relations between states and the influences of various non-state and other global actors on the state governments, learning the complex formats of world politics and its overwhelming growth across the globe makes this field multi-dimensional. In this way, it allows the leaders and international practitioners



to explore the scope of this field in multiple directions by investing their potential in specific areas. These areas cover a wide range of professional fields such as diplomacy, foreign services, media, education, and research. Presently, the emphasis of this field in Pakistan is on journalism, academics, and competitive exams where the students of IR could discover the right places for the application of knowledge acquired from the IR. These trends widen the scope of IR in the contemporary global world where the technological advancements and new values of the international system have led its readers to focus their careers beyond the traditional fixed dimensions linked with the mentioned fields. In this way, the wider scope of IR is outlined briefly in the following table.

The scope of the IR discipline is mainly dependent on its main concentration points which examine the positions of states, roles of governments, the ideology of leadership, and complex interstate relations. These relations are generally shaped by the non-state actors, international organisations, and great power politics. The discussion on great power politics is always patterned by the nature of the international system, which cannot be treated as static or constant. In this way, the persistently changing nature of the international system leads the IR study towards the exploration of greater sources of diverse knowledge and its practical application in global power politics. The multifaceted changes of the global system make IR a multidimensional field due to its vast academic boundaries covering a wide range of topics concerning the IR study. Therefore, its scope is vast and multidirectional, which is summarised in the chart below.

## Scope of IR

Career Opportunities	Specific Role	Employment Platforms	Needed Expertise
<b>Government Services</b>	Representing states	Ministries, Embassies	Negotiations, Communications
<b>International Organizations</b>	Addressing the global challenges	United Nations, World Bank, and IMF,	Policy Analysis, Problem-Solving
<b>Policy Examination</b>	Investigating Government Policies	Think Tanks, Research Institutions	Critical Thinking, Data Interpretations
<b>Development Sector</b>	Addressing Global Issues	Inter-Governmental and Non-Government Organisations	Project Management, Grant Writing
<b>Human Rights Promotion</b>	Advocacy to Human Rights Issues	Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch	Legal Knowledge, Advocating Capabilities
<b>International Consultancy</b>	Advising the Matters of Global Significance	Multinational Corporations, Consulting Firms	Strategic Planning, Policy Analysis
<b>International Law Expert</b>	Providing Assistance in Legal and Political Matters	Law Firms, International Courts	Legal Knowledge, Political Process
<b>Peace and Conflict Resolution</b>	Mediation, Negotiation,	NGOS, International and National Organizations	Tactics in Diffusing High Tensions between States

**Table 1.6**

The table explains the potential places for IR students while referencing their diverse capabilities and specific expertise in different fields. These fields have multiplying tendencies with the changing characteristics of the international system, as the rise of the new world of multileveled digital realities has created a wide range of digital platforms. The emergence of digital platforms has widened the scope of IR in the contemporary international system and increased the

relevance of IR students to the changing dynamics of world politics. to the digital platforms, the following chart could be considered helpful in understanding the widening career opportunities for IR students.

<b>Digital Platforms</b>	<b>Career Opportunities</b>	<b>Potential Platforms</b>
<b>Social Media</b>	Creating Global Networking	Various Social Media Communication Channels
<b>Online Education</b>	Specialized Knowledge, Focused Skills	Online Course and Certifications
<b>Digital Diplomacy</b>	Use of Technology in the Diplomatic Communications	Government and Public Diplomacy Forums
<b>Remote Jobs</b>	Working beyond Geographical Constraints	NGOs, IGOs, and Online Consultancy
<b>Virtual Events</b>	Participation in Online Official Events	Webinars, Virtual Conference, Online Academic Debates
<b>Digital Journalism</b>	Communication on Global, National and International Issues	Blogging, YouTube
<b>Freelancing Platforms</b>	Access to Global Freelancing Projects	Freelancing Platforms like Fiverr, Upwork,
<b>Digital Marketing</b>	Effective Communication, Diverse Knowledge	Different Digital Market Platforms such as Amazon

**Table 1.7**

## 1.7. SUMMARY POINTS

- Studying International Relations investigates the prevailing changes in the international system on the states and their impacts on societies. It focuses on the interactions of states with various non-state actors in which the role of international organizations and influential individuals is important.
- The objectives of the IR discipline are diverse and enable the students to understand the constantly evolving international system and its relevance with the states located in different regions. Its multidimensional objectives cover a wide range of areas dealing with the political, economic, diplomatic, strategic and social dimensions of states.
- The nature of the subject is multidisciplinary, in which the different sub-fields of social sciences are the mainstream focusing grounds, enabling its readers to gain knowledge from different fields. The multidimensional knowledge is collected mainly from political science, diplomacy, strategic studies, security studies, and international political economy.
- The field's scope is broader and relevant to several subfields, which further enables the students to explore careers in multiple directions through investing the multi-disciplinary knowledge acquired from the subject's main contents.

## 1.8. Self-Assessment Questions

1. What is the nature of International Relations as an academic discipline?
2. How the nature of International Relations is multidisciplinary.
3. Define the academic foundations of International Relations and its significance worldwide.
4. What fields are linked with the professional applications of International Relations?
5. How the scope of International Relations could be measured on rational grounds.

## 1.9. Further Readings

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**Unit 2**

**APPROACHES TO THE  
STUDY OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

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## INTRODUCTION

Unit 2 examines the core theoretical perspectives that have shaped the discipline of International Relations. These approaches - including Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism - offer distinct ways of analysing global political dynamics, state interactions, and patterns of conflict and cooperation. Rather than being merely abstract concepts, these theories serve as practical tools for understanding real-world issues such as power competition, international institutions, and transnational challenges.

The unit provides students with a structured introduction to these fundamental frameworks, enabling them to compare different interpretations of international phenomena. Through examining these theoretical traditions, learners will develop the analytical skills needed to critically assess global events and engage with contemporary debates in the field. This foundation proves valuable not only for academic study but also for professional engagement with international affairs.

The central focus of this Unit is on the study of International Relations (IR) in a conceptual manner because it is considered essential in this Unit to provide a theoretical understanding of the major events happening around the world. Such events generally engage the states in interacting with the state and non-state entities of the contemporary international system while treating them the inescapable forces of the international system. The anarchical structure of the international system and the persistent existence of uncertainty in the world are the foundational elements of world politics, which shape contradictory and specific state behaviours. While considering the permanent nature of anarchy in the international system, this Unit discusses the specific intellectual thoughts to comprehend the complex landscape of world politics.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- Anarchy in the System
- Quest for Power and Hegemon
- Realism
- Application in World Politics
- Liberalism
- Application to World Politics
- Behaviouralism
- Application to World Politics

## Learning Objectives

The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- To understand the foundations of the international system
- To explain the concept of power in the world
- To comprehend the varying theoretical explanations of International Relations
- To debate the application of different theoretical concepts in the contemporary world



Figure 2.1

## **2.1 FOUNDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

The nature of the international system is deeply ingrained in the notion of anarchy, which generally refers to a permanent situation based on the absence of a central authority. The absence of a central authority pushes the states to pursue contrast interests against each other, parallel to acquiring powerful status over others. The conceptual description of anarchy explains a system of states without a central authority.

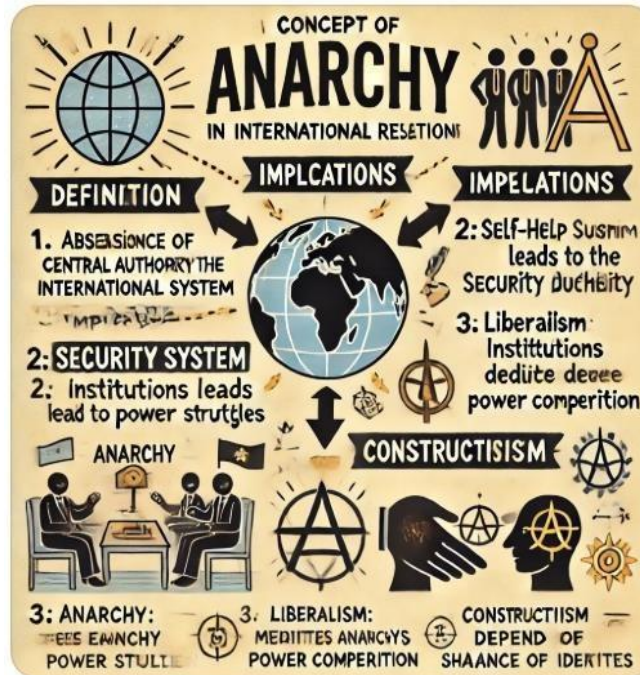
Of managing peace and stability in the world. In this way, the persistent growth of anarchy in the world convinces the state leaders to develop their diverse power capabilities for the ultimate achievement of national interests, which mainly follow contesting frameworks. The national interests of states heavily rely on the acquisition of power and maximisation of power without limits due to the prevailing influences of uncertainty on the mindsets of leaders. The following picture is appropriate to understand the concept of anarchy.

## **2.2 BASIC ASSUMPTIONS OF ANARCHY**

The concept of anarchy is primarily based on the following assumptions, which are essential to comprehend the nature of the international system.

- a. The international system lacks a central authority to govern the world while managing the conflicting interactions of states.
- b. The element of uncertainty has become a permanent feature of the international system due to the consistent evolution of anarchy in the system.
- c. Sovereignty is a fundamental state value which convinced the leaders to maintain a central authority within the border, parallel to countering the threats of foreign interventions.
- d. The system's anarchical structure generates several pressures on states and forces their leaders to acquire sufficient power sources based on the principle of self-help.
- e. The quest for maintaining a specific level of security leads the state leaders towards military buildup that often jeopardizes the security of others or generates elements of mistrust and conflict between states.
- f. The relative distribution of power shapes specific state behaviour in which the leaders prefer to focus on the ultimate goals of survival and power acquisition.
- g. The absence of authority in the system creates conflicting power dynamics in the world, and it results in a lack of specific normative principles and their enforcement on states.

- h. The states are rational actors in the anarchical world structure where every state relies on its calculated strategic values inherited in its core national interests.



### 2.3 RELEVANCE OF ANARCHY WITH POWER

The conceptual foundations of anarchy are attached to the quest for power acquisition and power maximization because power defines the principles of security and defence to the quest for power acquisition and power maximization maximisation. After all, power defines the principles of security and defence. The states are ambitious to achieve a powerful status and are primarily convinced of their survival in the anarchical international system, parallel to defending their core national values such as sovereignty. The survival of the state generally defines the positions of state governments in their



respective regions with different objectives under the shadows of the security dilemma, the balance of power, and deterrence. So, the relationship between anarchy and the pursuit of power is central in the international system, where the government authorities of the nations are always focused on the attainment of their varying national interests. The protection of national interests and core strategic values generally leads the state governments towards the survival of their exceptional positions on different issues of regional and global importance. The relation between the concepts of anarchy and the pursuit of power is explained in the following chart.

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Concept of Anarchy</b>	<b>Concept of Power</b>
<b>Definition</b>	No central power	Capability to influence others while achieving core national objectives
<b>Nature</b>	A decentralized system of self-reliance	Power distribution based on a relative and competitive basis
<b>Security Dilemma</b>	High level of uncertainty causing inter-state tensions	Leads governments to improve power capabilities for survival and domination
<b>Survival</b>	Protection of security and survival	Power is the primary factor ensuring ultimate survival
<b>Cooperation in Crisis</b>	Uncertainty generates mistrust and competition	Relative power distribution undermines collective actions
<b>Theoretical Views</b>	Anarchy is a permanent condition of the international structure.	Theories accepted the presence of power competition.
<b>Conflicting Nature</b>	The absence of a rule increases the risks of conflict	Continued power struggle

**Table 2.2**

## 2.4 REALISM

Realism in IR is a prevalent school of thought that views the international system as a reflection of competition and conflict due to the permanent presence of anarchy in the world. The uncertainty created by anarchy focused on the sources of power while believing that the ultimate sources of power provide security guarantees to the state against the multidimensional rise of potential security threats. The



The main idea of realism is based on the following assumptions.

- i. The structure of the international system is anarchical and poses serious threats to the states.
- j. The state governments are the significant points of the international system, driving the states' foreign policies in diverse directions.
- k. States are the rational actors in the system which always pursue national interests in the form of different strategies for their security and survival.
- l. International system functions on the power capabilities of states, because the power struggle cannot be minimised in state affairs.
- m. The state value demanding the attention of the policymakers attention of the policymakers is the national interest. State leaders do not compromise on their national interests.
- n. The state leadership is always convinced of the nature of conflict, which is inevitable and constant in the international system. State governments can't escape the conflicting environment of the world.
- o. The contesting national interests of states always believe in the relative distribution of power, and it demands that state governments adopt influential policies over others.

## 2.5 TYPES OF REALISM

The realist school of thought continued the debate on the changing patterns of power politics based on the anarchical structure of the international system, in which several aspects of power, government behaviour, and the conflicted nature of the international system prevail. Different types of realism present various theoretical lenses to study the complex nature of global power politics and its overwhelming

impacts on the states. In this way, various types of realism can be understood with the help of the given table.

### Different Types of Realism

Types of Realism	Explanation	Prominent Scholar
<b>Classical Realism</b>	Focuses the human nature and its reflection in the state behaviors	Thucydides, Hans Morgenthau, E.H. Carr
<b>Neorealism (also known as Structural Realism)</b>	Emphasises the structure of the world as the primary force shaping states' behaviours	Kenneth Waltz
<b>Defensive Realism</b>	Explain states policies for balancing the potential threats.	Kenneth Waltz
<b>Offensive Realism</b>	Describes the states' ambition for maximising power	John Mearsheimer
<b>Neoclassical Realism</b>	Focuses on the integration of both Indigenous and global changes shaping state policies	Randall Schweller, Gideon Rose
<b>Defensive Neoclassical Realism</b>	Study the structure of the international system with the internal features of states.	Randall Schweller
<b>Offensive Neoclassical Realism</b>	Describes the integration of systemic factors and the domestic state dynamics	John Mearsheimer, Fareed Zakaria

**Table 2.3**

Apart from these conventional frameworks of realism, the existing literature concerning the wider role of realism has revealed various other forms of realism, which are the following.

- Complex Realism by Benjamin Frankel, Robert Art, Richard Ned Lebow
- Realist Pluralism by Hedley Bull
- Postcolonial Realism by Amitav Acharya, Andrew Hurrell
- Neoclassical Realism 2.0 by Charles L. Glaser, Randall Schweller
- Sociological Realism by Edward Keene, Mark Hoffman
- Adaptive Realism by Barry Buzan, Lene Hansen

## 2.5. LIBERALISM

The conceptual foundations of liberalism are based on the potential of state governments to cooperate in the world through specific agreements, mainly from the platforms of intergovernmental institutions. The multilateral arrangements of states in the World plays an important role in defining the cooperative foundations of interstate interactions in the anarchical system. Akin to the realist school of thought, the liberals believe that anarchy is permanent in the



structure, which poses multifaceted challenges to states. In this way, the persistent pressures of the anarchical structure demand that states empower their standing in the system with the help of different cooperative connections. These cooperative connections gain the support of formal diplomatic forces of states and the formal capabilities of their respective governments for finalising and identifying the important areas of cooperation. The key explanations of liberalism emerge from certain concepts given by prominent scholars.

- a. Immanuel Kant focused on the idea of “Perpetual Peace” referring to the cooperative interactions of states based on the active functioning of the international organisations.
- b. John Locke emphasised the “Liberal Political Theory” concerning the social contract between states and society, where the role of government bodies is to protect the rights of citizens.
- c. Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye are the advocates of “Complex Interdependence”, explaining the role of multifaceted frameworks in building mutually collaborative interactions between states.
- d. Michael Doyle has given the idea of the “Democratic Peace Theory”, which focuses on the promotion of democracy in the world and the significance of democratic values for the prevention of wars between states.

## 2.6 DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIBERALISM

Type of Liberalism	Explanation	Prominent Scholars
<b>Classical Liberalism</b>	Focuses on individual freedom and the rule of law with a minimum state interventions	John Locke, Adam Smith
<b>Economic Liberalism</b>	Emphasises the role of global trade, open markets, and cooperative business communities	David Ricardo, Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman
<b>liberal intstitutionalism</b>	Underlines the role of institutions in deepening cooperation between states	Immanuel Kant, Robert Keohane, Joseph Nye
<b>Neoliberalism</b>	Highlight the role of international regimes and institutions in managing world politics	Robert Keohane, Joseph Nye, Kenneth Oye
<b>Liberal Internationalism</b>	Support the spread of liberal and cooperative ideas in the world through different channels	Woodrow Wilson
<b>Constructive Liberalism</b>	Describes the role of different liberal ideas shaping states' cooperative policies	Alexander Wendt, Martha Fennimore

**Table 2.4**

In this way, the theoretical description of liberalism focuses on the cooperative vision of the interstate system where the leading government authorities prefer to formulate interactive bilateral connections. The main idea of liberalism stresses the promotion of global cooperation through the spread of liberal norms which are helpful in addressing the effects of anarchy on states' mindsets.

## 2.7 BEHAVIOURALISM

Behaviouralism reflects the promotion of a behavioural approach in the international system, which provides a logical understanding of the states' specific policies supported by certain factors. These factors, consisting of internal and external diverse attributes, explain the reasons



behind specific government behaviours in which the prime state authorities prefer to formulate exclusive policies to interact with bilateral and multilateral gatherings of the international community. The combination of bilateral and multilateral arrangements of the international community generally leads the state governments towards adopting empirical analysis. These empirical features determine the merits of crafting specific state policies due to the prevailing uncertainties of structure in the states located in different regions. Behaviouralism emerges in the international as a theory developed by Harold D. Lasswell and Gabriel Almond in the US to study the changing power patterns of international politics and their impacts on the state governments. In the IR domain, it is treated broadly as a subfield of political science emphasising the worldwide developments of political mindsets, psychology of ideology, comparative political standards, and political methodology. In this way, its empirical ways make it a study of Political Science and International Relations to study the inseparable integration between emerging theories and their practical applications.

The main proponents of this approach explain the varying formal interactions of states driven by their specific behaviours in which the mainstream government authorities pursue varying policies for negotiation and formulating their decisions about changing the power dynamics of the world. These patterns define the nature of the international system, consisting of contesting decisions of the nations for the protection of their core sovereign values and varying national interests. These interests generally result in cooperation, conflict, alliances, and agreements backed by productive negotiations cemented in cooperative national intentions of government. In this way, a comprehensive understanding of this theoretical approach is described in the table mentioned below.

<b>Core Principle</b>	Empirical and Quantitative Analysis
<b>Focus</b>	Government behaviour and standing in world politics

<b>Preferred Methods</b>	Game Theory, Rational Choice Theory, Behavioural Decision Theory, Political Psychology
<b>Principle Conceptions</b>	Decision-Making Processes, Changing States' Policies, Government Actions and Their Outcomes
<b>Impacts</b>	Focuses on systematic Observation through the scientific method, implementing empirical methods to study varying patterns of world politics

<b>Admirations</b>	It provides data-driven and empirical insight into specific state behaviours while improving the rational analytical capabilities of leaders.
<b>Theoretical Formation</b>	The intellectual insights of the theory are driven by the ideas of Kenneth Waltz.

**Table 2.5**

## 2.8 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The above-mentioned three schools of thought are based on three distinct conceptual approaches to studying the changes in world politics and their evolution under various phases. These theoretical approaches have consensus on the anarchical structure of the international system while having varying viewpoints on the rational understanding of the international system. Thus, a comparative brief overview of such approaches is given below to identify their differing perceptions.

<b>Concept</b>	<b>Realism</b>	<b>Liberalism</b>	<b>Behavioralism</b>
<b>Main Idea</b>	Survival and Sovereignty	Cooperation and Collaboration	Empiricism and Quantification
<b>Emphasize</b>	Acquisition of Military Power	Economic Collaboration	States' Behaviour in Decision-Making
<b>Main Argument About</b>	Anarchy, Power Politics, Conflict	Interdependence, Internal Peace	Rational Decision and Pragmatic Policies
<b>Central Theme</b>	Power and Conflict	Optimistic View of World Politics	Data-Driven Insights on Policy Analysis

<b>Impression</b>	Foundational to Understand Power	Essential to Understand the Role of Global Institutions	Methodological Advancements in the Study of World Politics
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**Table 2.6**

## 2.9 Summary Points

- Anarchy is the foundational value of an international system in which the states are independent units creating a complex political order for the pursuit of their core national interests. The varying national interests of states generally follow contesting tendencies cemented in their formal inflexibilities and diplomatic disagreements against each other.
- The anarchical nature of values in the international system convinces the states to acquire power for the security of their core national values, which ultimately leads their respective leaderships to protect their independent standing in regional and extra-regional affairs. The pursuit to gain and maximise power creates insecurity in a region due to the growing state concentration on the improvement of military might. In this way, anarchy generates an unending power competition in the world.
- While considering power as an essential element of the international system, the theoretical description of realism deals with state-survival and the principle of self-help. Both attributes of realist thoughts create a power competition in the world where the strategies of the balance of power and power maximisation generally prevail.
- The liberalist argues for the formulation of cooperation connections between state governments based on multifaceted economic collaboration. The proponents of the liberalist school of thought focused on the promotion of Cooperative interstate and multistate interactions provide equal development opportunities to all states.
- Behavioralism concentrates on the methodological shift and advancement of empirical approaches in the world where rational decisions and pragmatic thinking serve the greater interests of states. It results in the rational policy frameworks of state government in the anarchical structure of the world.

## **2.10. Self-Assessment Questions**

1. How the anarchical structure of the international system generates an unending competition among states.
2. Why do state governments always concentrate on the acquisition and maximization of power?
3. What are the main differences between realism and liberalism in their interpretation of international relations?
4. What role do international institutions and norms play in liberalism?
5. How does behavioralism integrate with or complement realism and liberalism?
6. How the scope of International Relations could be measured on rational grounds.

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**Unit 3**

**MODERN STATE SYSTEM  
AND SOVEREIGNTY**

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## INTRODUCTION

This unit examines the development and transformation of the state system, a fundamental concept in International Relations. Beginning with the Westphalian model established in 1648, we trace how notions of sovereignty and territorial authority have evolved to meet changing global realities. The unit analyses how states maintain control within their borders while navigating an increasingly interconnected world where challenges like environmental crises, global health emergencies, and security threats disregard national boundaries.

Students will explore the historical emergence of the state system, its legal underpinnings, and how contemporary forces are reshaping traditional understandings of sovereignty. The unit pays particular attention to how states balance their domestic authority with growing demands for international cooperation and the rise of supranational governance structures. Through this study, students will develop critical insights into one of IR's most enduring yet dynamic concepts - the sovereign state in a globalised world. The combination of sovereignty and the modern state system holds the idea that states have complete power over what happens within their territories and over their people, a model that was formalised in the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. It was the emergence of the modern state system, which is the central point of this Unit. Sovereignty, the prime element of the system, is generally divided into two categories: internal sovereignty, which is linked with authority on states to rule free of internal crisis and external sovereignty, which guarantees states' autonomy in international relations. This is a strong model, but it has its limitations and obstacles because of globalisation, supranational organisations, and new issues like climate change and global warming. As the rise of globalisation gave rise to transnational challenges, states increasingly are confronted with the question of how to balance their sovereign rights and domestic priorities with the interdependent realities they face and the pressing. Need for effective cooperation on transnational issues. In this way, the prime focus of this Unit is on the rise of the Modern State system and its changing attributes under the shadows of globalisation.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- Modern State System
- Evolution of the State System
- Concept of Sovereignty
- Challenges in the Globalised World

## **OBJECTIVES**

**The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:**

- To understand the concept of the Modern State System
- To discuss the evolution of the Modern State System
- To explain the basis of the Modern States System
- To describe the concept of sovereignty

### 3.1. WHAT IS A STATE SYSTEM

This is a comment about how the state system organises political entities—states—so that states operate inside a structured system based on sovereignty, legal equality, and mutual recognition. Formally manifested after the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, as the foundation of modern international relations on the principles of territorial sovereignty and non-interference in the state's internal affairs, the international system is based on sovereign national values. In such a system, states are the primary actors, and they share strict control over their internal affairs and the practice of diplomacy and conflict resolution. The state system is a representation of both cooperation through global norms and competition through national interests.

The evolution of globalisation, transnational challenges, and even non-state actors have posed a serious challenge to the traditional state system, which at times raises the need for adaptations, both in practical and theoretical aspects. This framework for Creation-Sustenance-Destruction has its roots in vibrant interdependence and is effective within the context of the lenses of how the world works currently.

#### Key Characteristics of the Modern State System

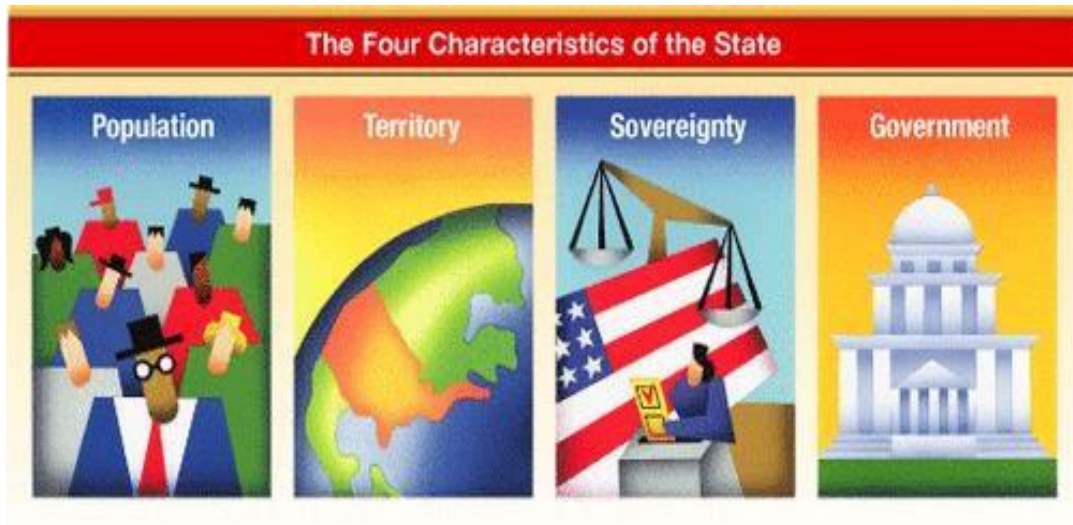


Figure 3.1

### 3.2. SOVEREIGNTY

Sovereignty is the foundational principle of state sovereignty. It highlights the state's power to govern itself without any outside interference.

- **Internal Sovereignty:** The state has the ultimate authority to make rules, conduct activities, and keep peace in the region it governs.
- **External Sovereignty:** The state is acknowledged by other states and international organisations as entitled to rule its territory and carry out foreign relations without outside intervention.

### Examples:

- **United States:** The U.S. government decides on its own domestic and foreign policies, ruling its people and territory.

**China:** The People's Republic of China has claimed sovereignty over its territory, including regions such as Tibet and has argued that Taiwan is part of China (China's claim over Taiwan is a matter of international dispute).

### 3.3. TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

Territorial integrity means the borders of a state cannot be violated or changed by an external force without the state's consent.

- **Internal Territorial Integrity:** No territories outside the control of the state's Government.
- **External territorial integrity:** This includes avoiding the recognition or establishment of new states or territories that may be formed by an act of aggression or a violation of the state's territorial integrity.



Figure 3.2

## Examples:

- **India-Pakistan Border:** Questions of territorial integrity rage in contested regions, such as Kashmir.
- **Germany:** Germany was split after World War II, but re-unified in 1990 as a single sovereign country with borders intact.

## 3.4. POPULATION

A population is an enduring population of humans living within the borders of the state and governed by its institutions. The people are just recognized as citizens of the state, and the state takes care of them.



**Figure 3.3**

- **Citizenship:** The legal bond between a state and its people, allowing them certain rights and expectations under state law.
- **Population Diversity:** Populations may be homogeneous (similar ethnically or culturally) or diverse (composed of multiple ethnic, linguistic or religious groups).

## Examples:

- **Japan:** Japan's population is largely ethnically homogenous, and its national identity is strongly linked to a sense of shared culture and language.
- **Brazil:** Brazil, in contrast, is made up of different ethnic groups and has an indigenous population, descendants from African slaves, and immigrants from Europe and Asia.

### 3.5. GOVERNMENT

The U.S. government is a governmental institution of the state. It is charged with establishing laws, implementing public policies, and maintaining order within a given territory. The government maintains the independence of the state and is usually divided into several branches (executive, legislative, and judiciary).



**Figure 3.4**

- **Forms of Government:** All governments are Democratic and Non-democratic.  
**Legitimacy:** A government must derive support or consent of the governed (in democracies) or establish control through authority (in authoritarian states).

Examples:

- **The United States:** The U.S. is a federal system with a division of power between the national government and individual state governments, featuring a democratic system of elections and checks and balances.
- **China:** China is a one-party state governed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which has overarching authority, and decisions are made in a centralised manner.

### 3.6. RECOGNITION


Recognition is the fact, legal act, or process by which other states or international organisations such as the United Nations grant a state's sovereignty

and territorial borders or jurisdiction. may several kinds of recognition may be diplomatic relations, membership in the International, or a bilateral treaty.

- **De Facto vs. De Jure Recognition**
- Analogue recognition means that a state is recognised in fact, while official recognition means it is recognised by other states or by the international community.
- **Challenges to Recognition:** Political, ideological or geographical reasons may deny international recognition to some or all of these states.

### **Examples:**

- **United Nations:**
- Some of these non-state actors include India, Germany, and Brazil, which are international diplomats and acknowledged states in the United Nations.
- **Israel**
- Israel is revered by most countries, but it has its non-recognition, such as Palestine and some Arab states.
- **Taiwan:** Taiwan functions as an independent state, but it is not as such globally, as China considers Taiwan its territory.

Core Feature	Description	Example
<b>Sovereignty</b>	The supreme authority of a state to govern itself, make laws, and control its internal and external affairs without interference from external powers.	<b>United States, China, India</b>
<b>Territorial Integrity</b>	The state's defined geographic boundaries, which are recognized internationally. The integrity of a state's borders is crucial for maintaining its sovereignty.	<b>India-Pakistan border, Germany (post-WWII), Brazil</b>
<b>Population</b>	A permanent, organized group of people residing within the borders of the state. States typically have citizens who recognize the authority of the government.	<b>Japan</b> (homogeneous society), <b>Brazil</b> (diverse population)
<b>Government</b>	The political structure or system through which the state's laws and policies are created and enforced. It includes institutions like the executive, legislature, and judiciary.	<b>United States</b> (Federal system), <b>United Kingdom</b> (Parliamentary system), <b>China</b> (Single-party system)
<b>Recognition</b>	The formal acknowledgment of a state's sovereignty by other states and international bodies, typically through diplomatic relations or membership in international organizations. 	<b>United Nations, Israel</b> (recognized by some countries), <b>Taiwan</b> (limited recognition)

**Table 3.5**

### 3.7. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE STATE SYSTEM

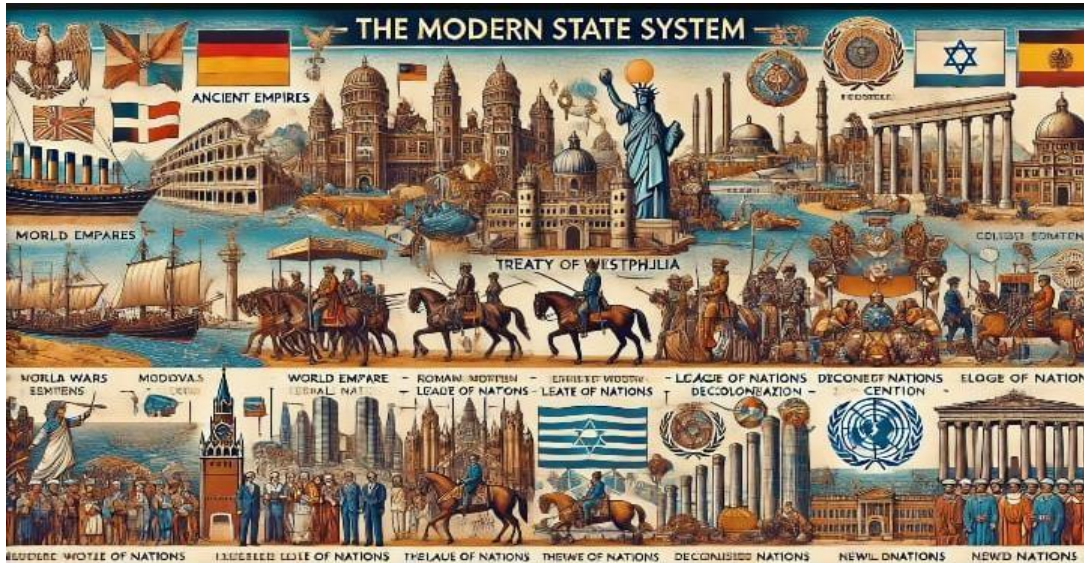


Figure 3.6

The evolution of the state system can be understood through different historical periods, each of which contributed to the transformation of political organisation, sovereignty, and governance.

#### a) Ancient and Medieval Periods (Before the 16th Century)



Figure 3.7

In the early civilisations, political power in the large empires was over the regions across the world. The early states and empires included the Roman Empire, the Persian Empire, and the Chinese Empires and had centralized systems of administration although it could not be compared to the modern state sovereignty.

- **Ancient Civilisations:**

Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Crete were the first states; these early societies were highly centralised, their political authority able to directly oversee large territories. There was no clear concept of territorial sovereignty or state borders in the modern meaning of these terms.

- **Medieval Period:**

In the medieval period, Europe was politically highly divided. The Empire of the Romans was given more power, together with the papacy, while many countries in Europe were based on the feudal system of governance, where power was spread. Rulers assumed they needed local magnates for administration, and that ruling required the loyalty of strong local lords. This system did not have the order, which is characteristic of modern states and sovereignty.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Example</b>
<b>Fragmented Authority</b>	Power divided among monarchs, lords, and clergy.	Holy Roman Empire's decentralized governance.
<b>Religious Supremacy</b>	Religious institutions influenced politics.	Papal authority in medieval Europe.
<b>No Sovereignty</b>	No clear territorial boundaries or single authority.	Overlapping claims of kingdoms and empires.

Table 3.8

## **b) The Peace of Westphalia (1648): Birth of the Modern State System**

The Westphalian system, which has commonly been understood to stem from the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, is therefore regarded as the beginning of the contemporary system of states. These treaties brought the Thirty Years' War in Europe to a close and were also historically significant with respect to sovereignty and state territorial borders. Therefore, the key outcomes of the Westphalian system:

- **Sovereignty:** The treaties also clearly stated the sovereignty of the states. This was an obvious fact, implying that there was authority of the states over the nation without any interference from other nations. On this principle, the foundations of the contemporary system of interstate relations were laid.
- **Territorial Integrity:** The treaties were effective to delimit the states and introduce the principle that no state should alter the physical dimension of the other state. Boundaries emerged as being critical in the determination of a given state's jurisdiction.
- **Legal Equality of States:** The Peace of Westphalia established a principle that 'all governments of all states, however small or weak, are juridically equal'. This set the premise for equality in international law which holds relations between sovereigns today. The Westphalian system was innovative because it replaced feudal lords, the church, and the empire-centred type of order with modern international relations within territorially discrete states with absolute sovereignty.

## **C) The Rise of Nation-States (18th-19th Century)**

The ideas of a unified nation and state and sovereignty were developed largely between the latter half of the 18th century and the nineteenth century when the theoretical model of the nation-state gained predominance during this period, nationalism was rousing to call for politics as primordialism, meaning that politics should be racially and linguistically tied to the people.

## **d) French Revolution (1789):**

The processes of the formation and development of the modern state system cannot be imagined without reference to the French Revolution. It brought with it the principle, never seen before, of the sovereignty of the people by which the authority of the state is derived from the people and not the king or the god. This idea has turned into the focal point of contemporary democratic nations.

- **Industrial Revolution:** The Industrial Revolution forced the pace of state

centralisation as there was a need for a collective call on economic policies, physical infrastructure, and military might, which locked in the state's role in Colonialism.

- **Localised European powers engaged themselves in colonisation;** as a result, they stretched their sovereignty towards the outside world by establishing overseas empires. It also saw the introduction of the European concept of state and territorial formation in some of the regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

#### e) **The 20th Century: The Era of Global Conflicts and International Law**

The First and Second World Wars in the first half of the century were massive events that required the state system and the international order.

- **World War I and the Treaty of Versailles (1919):** The conclusion of the first world war saw the formation of new state in both Europe and the Middle East. The League of Nations represented the idea of collective security and working to prevent future wars, but failed.
- **World War II and the United Nations (1945):** In the aftermath of WWII, the United Nations (UN) was formed to maintain world peace and human rights as well as mutually promote and protect the interests of the state.
- Further to this creation, the UN supported, extended, and even entrenched the Westphalian doctrine of sovereignty, coupled with mechanisms of collective security, including peacekeeping and human rights watching.
- This process that started after the Second World War is the decolonisation, a process through which former colonies gained independence to become new sovereign states in Africa, Asia, as well as some parts of the Caribbean.

### **3.8. THE CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS**

Sovereignty is one of the main ideas of the modern state system, it defines the state's ultimate decision-making power in its geographical space and inhabitants. It can be viewed from two dimensions:

- a) **Internal Sovereignty:** This is the power, which a state holds to rule over its territory without external influence. It includes the ability to:
- **Make and enforce laws:** The state can make laws for the people within the state jurisdiction.
  - **Maintain order:** In enabling organisations such as the military and the police, the state provides for peace within the local community.
  - **Economic control:** States control the economy; they must look after resources and formulate fiscal policies.

- **Provide for welfare:** The population's social, economic and health needs fall under the state's jurisdiction.
- b) **External Sovereignty:** This means accepting a state in the community of nations and its entitlement to all the rights of people before the law. A state is considered sovereign when it is:
- **Recognised by other states:** Recognition by other states is therefore considered a legitimate right to the international legal personality of an entity and to engage in relations with other entities.
  - **Exempt from foreign interference:** A sovereign state has the right to regulate its foreign affairs, or personal representation and protection, without influence by other persons or competitors.

### 3.9. CHALLENGES TO SOVEREIGNTY IN THE MODERN ERA

Sovereignty as a principle is constantly under pressure from various powers at the international level. Some of the most significant challenges to sovereignty include:

- a) **Globalization:** Globalization, which can be seen as a process of extension of world interaction through the intensification of technology, business and communication, has eroded state authority in many spheres. International, business and organization and global problems such as global warming and viral infections tend to force the states to work together and at times surrender some of their sovereign powers.
- b) **Supranational Organizations:** International institutions, which include international organizations, ask member countries to surrender part of their authority in the scales of sovereignty in exchange for overall interests like business, security, and investment. For example, the EU member states adhere to some common laws and policies which are anyway against the interests of their countries.
- c) **Humanitarian Intervention:** It is not rare that the UN or NATO come to a state to sort out human rights violations or stop acts of genocide.
- d) **The Responsibility to Protect, or R2P,** has been bald, which essentially correlates to an international mandate to intervene in cases of genocide or major human rights abuses, the possibility of which could violate the sovereignty of a state.
- e) **Non-State Actors:** The increasing prominence of non-state actors like international terrorists, TNCs, and international NGOs presents a new problem for state centralisation. These actors are capable of affecting the policies, economy and even the security of a state. This actor will often be capable of

changing the policies, economy and even the security of a state in ways that the actual state may not always be able to.

### **3.9. Summary Points**

- The state system is still the key player in the international regulation but is challenged by globalization, new technologies, and questions of a global nature. The principle of sovereignty itself remains very strong but is being challenged on a regular basis by the regional integration, humanitarian organizations, non- state actors etc.
- In the future, the public may demand that their states adopt the concept of sovereignty in a globalised world to protect their national interests while preserving the opportunities for international cooperation addressing global concerns, such as climate change, immigration, and conflict. The world is still in the grip of state power, and the state system has long evolved politically, as has sovereignty. However, modern problems allow one to critically reconsider the topical concept of sovereignty, given the globalization and accelerated rates of change.
- Sovereignty is under a lot of pressure in the world today, from both global factors and domestic varieties. Globalisation has eroded state autonomy; the imperatives of economic interdependence, multinational corporations and international trade agreements dictate domestic policy. International institutions of the nature of the United Nations, the International Criminal Court or regional organisations like the European Union also bring obligations that sometimes trump national authority.
- The old concept of state sovereignty has been increasingly shattered by transnational matters of concern that demand concerted action across borders, such as climate change, pandemics, and terrorism. Also, the emergence of non-state actors, like multinational companies, NGOs, and terrorist groups, threatens a state's control over its territory and its periphery. In addition, the rise of technology, cyber warfare, and digital governance further posed external threats to state sovereignty as it became more challenging for states to implement control over their territory and decisions fully.

### **3.10. Self-Assessment Questions**

1. What were the key factors that led to the emergence of the modern state system in Europe?
2. How did the Peace of Westphalia contribute to the development of the modern state system?
3. In what ways did colonialism help spread the Westphalian system beyond Europe?
4. How has the notion of state sovereignty evolved in the 21st century, particularly about human rights and humanitarian intervention?
5. How does the principle of sovereignty relate to the concept of state authority and power?

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**Unit 04**

# **DOCTRINE OF POWER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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## INTRODUCTION

This Unit analyzed the doctrine of power in world politics, also known as the theory that explains the nature of power, distribution of power and actors in world politics. Power emerges as the principal instrument through which states and other actors in the international arena intermingle, hassling for hold within conflicts, alliances, and agreements. Realism, along with other classical theories, stresses capabilities, primarily of the military and economic variety, and assumes that states act to maximize their power and security within a structure of anarchy in the international system. Moreover, in a world that is growing ever closer and more interdependent, Relations of power are analysed not just in state-to-state terms but also through the lens of how non-state actors, transnational networks and technological forces all wield influence. After all, the doctrine of power imbibes the dilemma of the dynamic and multipolar nature of the world, as power is ever evolving with changing politics, economics, and technologies. Thus, this unit tries to explain the doctrine of power in the international system and its impacts on the states.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- What is Power
- The components of Power
- Tangible Sources of Power
- Intangible Sources of Power

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:**

- To explain the basic concept of power
- To describe the role of power in shaping world politics
- To emphasise different components of power
- To describe the challenges to the concept of power

## 4.1. WHAT IS POWER?

Power is a key concept in IR that refers to a state's ability to affect the actions of others through force, the ability to control or coerce, influence, the ability to manipulate, the ability to persuade, and attraction. It covers material and immaterial inputs that a state does control to enhance its overall capability to advance particular goals and protect national interests in a competitive environment. By contrast, intangible assets such as



cultural influence, political stability, and diplomatic adeptness add to a state's soft power. Conditions of regional stability in the international system are determinant for the global regional status, and with parallel factors in other dimensions, they are the most fundamental elements in the international system and events that lead to its change. This scenario leads to a complex system of power and its competition in the world among different states. These components are crucial to understanding interactions on the world stage, as well as the tactics states use to retain or grow their power. Thus, it is a prerequisite to understand the main concept of power before starting a debate on the concept of power.

## 4.2. TANGIBLE ELEMENTS OF POWER

Tangible elements of power are the quantifiable, physical resources that underpin a state's prowess in the international system. These components (military power, economic resources, geographical advantages, demographic characteristics, and infrastructure) are vital to a state's capacity to project power, defend its sovereignty, and ensure its strategic objectives. Tangible power forms the physical and economic basis upon which a state projects influence via coercion or deterrence. Military power Allows to defend and enforce policies; economic strength to dominate trade, disseminate aid and impose sanctions. The importance of geography bespeaks its strategic location or abundant natural resources. Collectively, these factors secure the relevance and competitiveness of a state within a dynamic and interconnected world.

### a. Military Power

Military power is among the most important types of concrete elements of power, forming a foundational stone of the ability of a state to protect its sovereignty, to compel potential adversaries to comply with policy, and to sway other actors in the

system (especially the state actors). It covers the strength, training and deploy ability of a state's military, the advancement of its arms, and technology for defensive systems. A well-developed military enables a nation to deter threats, project power beyond its borders, and protect its assets in war. For instance, nuclear arsenals held by major powers such as the United States, Russia, and China have a deterrent effect on aggression and dictate global strategic calculations. In a similar vein, military alliances — such as NATO — magnify the military capabilities of member states, improving their prospects to respond to threats jointly.

Military power, while historically focused on warfare, has evolved from one used to fight wars to one wielded as a form of diplomacy or for influence in contemporary international affairs. Having military bases in strategic locations, mounting peacekeeping missions, and conducting military training exercises with allies show a state's commitment to global security and build political alliances. Also, military power is a proxy in hybrid warfare, which utilizes a mix of conventional forces, cyber power, and psychological warfare to achieve state goals. Though fundamental for balancing threats to national security, an overdependence on the military might risk costly arms buildups and minutes of tension at international Forums. Therefore, its instrumentality as an element of power is derived from its strategic combination with other forms of state such as diplomacy and economic influence.

#### **b. Economic Power**

Economic power is among the most important tangible components of a state's influence in the international system, as it applies to any exercises of control, the creation of alliances, and the attainment of strategic objectives. Gross Domestic Product (GDP), industrial production, trade balance, and control over natural resources are general indicators of the economic power of a state. Most of the international relations scholars define the economic power of a state in terms of these parameters. This allows a state to fund its military, invest in tech innovations, and spend on foreign aid that helps to build alliances. Economic might enables states to impose sanctions, which can cripple other countries' economies and make them change policies without a direct military confrontation. Mainly, the United States has employed economic sanctions to curb the global presence of Iran and Russia and to deter them from pursuing activities considered threatening to global interests.

The deliberate application of economic power can also forge long-term partnerships and dependencies that extend a state's global reach. For example, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an acute case of using economic power to expand geopolitical influence. China has solidified trade relationships through its investments in infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa, and Europe and expanded its influence in the countries receiving the investments. Likewise, Germany's

strong industrial base and economic nexus of the European Union have enabled it to shape policies and determine the EU agenda. Such are the moral arguments behind them that economic power not only offers material rewards but also opens routes to diplomatic influence and world hegemony.

### **c. Geographical Power**

Geography is "the study of the physical features of the earth and human activity as it relates to these," according to the Oxford Dictionary. Location, size, terrain, and even temperature are all taken into consideration when studying geography as a tool of national power. Each of these elements influences a person's character and how they interact with other states. Perhaps the most important of them in shaping interstate relations is geography. As a result, the significance of this feature has been explained by all historians and authors, both past and present. The fact that geography has given rise to a vast new branch of study known as "geopolitics" is a good indicator of its importance in international relations.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that location affects how states treat one another. Global politics have been significantly impacted by Nazi Germany's geographic dominance. The Germans created what they considered the science of geopolitics in the process. According to a handy definition, geopolitics is the study of the link between politics and space that aims to use geographic knowledge to help political leaders. Political geography, which is descriptive, is just one aspect of it. It is inspired by national goals and looks for information and values that may further national objectives.

Climate and geography are connected, and both have a direct and indirect impact on country's power. The fact that the most powerful empires in history were located in temperate regions is no accident. The majority of the weakest and poorest nations are still found outside of the temperate zones. In addition to influencing human nature (humans tend to be more sluggish and less hardy as you go closer to the equator), climate also influences the availability of food sources. A nation is deemed fortunate if it to experience all four seasons. This gives the people the chance to engage in a variety of activities and contributes to the achievement of self-sufficiency in terms of growing their food, plants, and animals.

### **d. Demographic Power**

Demographic power is a fundamental component of state power that is derived from the size, structure, and characteristics of a population. A big population can Provide a large labour force, a consumer base, and potential military recruits, all of which augment a state's economic and strategic power. The quality of the population (education, health, skill level) also matters greatly to the overall contribution of a given population to state power. This is why a young population

in nations such as India shall experience demographic dividends, driving economic growth and innovation, as the workforce expands. On the other hand, an ageing population like Japan can drain resources and inhibit growth as it leads to higher healthcare costs and a smaller workforce. The size and quality of a population, therefore, are equally important in determining the respective power of a state in the international system.

Population dynamics also play a crucial role in the ability of a state to uphold social cohesion and political stability. A population that is well-educated and skilled, for example, encourages technological advancements and economic competitiveness, as it did in South Korea. Countries with high life expectancy and access to healthcare, like Scandinavian nations, have stronger and more satisfied societies, increasing the resilience of the state. Potential areas of instability include regions with rapid urbanisation, particularly in the case of sub-Saharan Africa if demographic challenges such as overpopulation, unemployment, or uneven distribution of resources exist in the region, etc. Demographic power is about how a state mobilises the potential of that population toward the realisation of strategic aims and maintaining a place in world affairs.

**e. Technological and Industrial Power**

Technological power is shorthand for a state's ability to produce novelty, innovation, and research and development (R&D) in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology and aerospace, etc. Rather, a state that possesses high-tech capabilities can outperform competitors in global markets, reinforce its cyber defences, and improve its military power. To take just one example, the U.S. is an obvious leader in AI, semiconductors and space exploration, as evidenced by SpaceX and NASA. China's achievements in 5G technology, alongside its grip on many manufacturing sectors, highlights that technological power is a crucial factor in global power. The power to wield advanced technologies also strengthens soft power by projecting a country as a leader in innovation.

At the same time, industrial power is a crucial complement to technological capabilities, as a stable power base is necessary to facilitate large-scale production for both economic and national defence purposes. It is the industrial base that holds the strength, dictates independence, lessens the dependency on foreign exports, and stabilises the economy. In Germany, for instance, the country's industrial prowess — especially in the automotive and engineering sectors — has made it a global economic giant. Industrial capabilities are also critical in conflict; during World War II, U.S. industrial capacity was mobilised to produce war materials at a level never seen before in history. These factors combined allow a state to sustain innovation, manufacture, and adapt to new global challenges and in doing so maintain it as a significant player on an international stage.

### **4.3. INTANGIBLE ELEMENTS OF POWER**

In international relations, intangible elements of power refer to the non-physical attributes that determine a country's effectiveness in influencing world affairs, building partnerships, and reaching its strategic goals. Whereas material forms of power — military or economic — are visible and tangible, intangible power is less so, yet it also plays a major role in a state's influence. Those descend from foundational powers like control over a given territory and hard power — military might, physical sovereignty, etc, but they are generic, potentially different angles of approach: political power, soft power, diplomatic skill, technological leadership, and ideological appeal. Less quantifiable, but critical in moulding how states relate to one another globally, govern international relations and their values and Goals. States that can wield these immaterial forms of power effectively often have a great deal of influence, even without resorting to force or economic coercion.

#### **a. Political Power**

Political power can be understood as a state's capacity to act effectively in the international arena, exercise its governance over its allies and adversaries, and facilitate norms in the global order. It is rooted in the internal political stability of a state, the strength of its institutions and the effectiveness of its leadership. A solid political system helps states domestically and internationally and is the basis for diplomatic power. The psychodynamics of a state's leadership are thus critical to its global circumstance, with leaders who can translate successful domestic policies into strong alliances and deft negotiations in international forums typically increasing their state's political power. Germany is a significant case that, under Angela Merkel's leadership, emerged as a dominant force in European politics — particularly in the European Union — as a result of its decisive political institutions, economic strength, and strong diplomatic management in crises like the Eurozone debt crisis and the migrant crisis.

Singapore is another example of political power, as evidenced by its transparency, efficiency, and low levels of corruption, which can open the door for it to become a critical player in world finance and diplomacy despite its size. Due to its host of political stability and role as a leader of multilateral alliances such as ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its regional approach to diplomacy (particularly around trade and international relations), Singapore has developed a strong reputation as a political player on the world stage. By focusing on governance and diplomacy, Germany and Singapore showcase that political power, founded on a stable domestic situation and an active international role, has a way of allowing a rise in a state's weight in the international system.

### **b. Cultural Power**

We also see examples of cultural power in the form of American culture dominating the globe via Hollywood movies, TV, music, and fast food restaurants, shaping lifestyles and aspirations around the world. By David Crary, America has long exported its values, from individualism to democracy, around the world, and the media and entertainment industries have become some of its most effective tools in this effort. In the same breath, South Korea exercised the "Korean Wave" (Hallyu) export of its K-pop and Korean cinema, wherein its self-importance has travelled across Asia, Europe and the Americas, giving it added cultural clout. In this way, such examples can demonstrate how, through mutual understanding, values, networks of influence, and once more, through 'everything but diplomacy', cultural power can contrive to inform international relations.

### **c. Diplomatic Power**

An element of statecraft, diplomatic power, describes a state's capacity to shape international relationships through processes of communication, negotiation, and the management of alliances and conflicts. It includes a state's ability to affect global discourse, adjudicate differences and forge coalitions to achieve its foreign policy objectives. Through diplomacy, states can cultivate relationships that advance their strategic objectives, such as trade arrangements, security alliances, or political endorsement. With skilled diplomacy, much can be achieved without the clenched fist, and that is one of the instruments through which we will shape The global order. The scope of a nation's diplomacy is often measured by its membership in international organisations, its role in conflict mediation and its ability to shape global norms.

Diplomatic power is used to explain Norway's positive standing as a mediator of peace, in particular throughout Israeli-Palestinian negotiations or the civil conflict in Sri Lanka; With its neutral approach and dedication to facilitating discussion, Norway has become a prominent player in international efforts to resolve conflict. The example of Switzerland and its status as a neutral party with diplomatic channels is another case in point; the country has been able to host international negotiations and organisations, including the UN Office in Geneva. These nations show how a state can increase its influence in the world through the deployment of its diplomatic power, whether that be through active engagement, conflict resolution or the promotion of international cooperation.

### **d. Psychological Power**

Psychological power is a state's capacity to influence the global environment in ways that alter the way other states and their populations perceive the state's actions and interests, the way they perceive the state's intent, and the way they perceive the state's worldviews and values. This playable power is all about information control

and “image control” and creating a “legitimacy” or “morally legitimate” aura around you. States with great psychological power can persuade others in the world to like them or at least refrain from criticising them by casting their actions in terms that reflect the values of the global community or the hopes of the global community. The US, for instance, has long used its media networks and Hollywood to create an image of democracy, innovation and leadership, and has framed how the world would view its global role. These narratives influence public opinion and ultimately policy in the backdrop of the broader U.S. context.

An additional example of psychological power is demonstrated in Russia’s use of media and propaganda to shape the narrative within its borders and convey a certain projection to the international community. With state-controlled outlets such as RT (Russia Today) and Sputnik, Russia has attempted to counter Western narratives, especially on the issue of the Ukraine crisis and its military intervention. It is important to note that both as part of the foreign public diplomacy agenda, and to legitimize its policies, Russia tries to present its actions in the context of furthering national security and regional stability, where other states become either victims of their aggression, or overseers of them, or the opposite — (potential) victims of military confrontation. This psychological effect can be achieved through media, social venues, or public diplomacy and permits a state to consolidate and expand its geopolitical sway without the need for military endeavour or economic pressure.

#### **e. Ideological Power**

Ideological power, more like the power of ideas, but in your ideological sense, is where a state transcends itself. It creates a symmetry where this state is influential, from the systems around it to the globalist values and beliefs. More ideologically powerful states can inform and guide international discourse, policy-making and even shape movements within states. This type of power is exercised through the dissemination of political systems (democracy, socialism, religious ideology) that have a worldwide appeal. This means they make all efforts to propagate their ideology through diplomacy, media, and cultural exports to make other nations accept their ideological fallacy and bind the other country to operate to some extent according to their idea. The United States, for example, used its ideological power during the Cold War to promote democracy and capitalism, forging alliances like NATO and encouraging the proliferation of free-market economies, ultimately affecting the political systems of much of the world.

China is an obvious ideological power, especially with its emphasis on socialism with Chinese characteristics. China has showcased its economic success as a model for other developing countries, tapping into an alternative road to modernisation that marries state-led capitalism with authoritarian governance.

Welcome to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), itself not merely an economic venture of the Chinese Investment in infrastructure projects spanning Asia, Africa and Europe, but also above all an ideological one that offsets China versus Western liberal democratic models. Similarly, Cuba has shaped left-wing thought internationally, including the rest of Latin America, through its socialist revolutionary ideology. Many socialist and anti-imperialist-governed nations point to the Cuban government, not only ideological solidarity but also practical assistance, particularly with getting education and health going, as well as political training that can help expand the ideological reach of the Cuban government.

#### **4.4. BALANCE OF POWER**

Balance of power — a situation where power is distributed relatively equally among states or groups of states so that no one actor can dominate the international system. The theory suggests that when power is balanced, stability and peace are maximised, and no single state or coalition has a predominant strength that would allow it to impose its will on others. This production is a system of alliances, deterrence, and even



military parity; the balance of power can sometimes lead states to align to contain a major emerging state or hegemonic power. Historically, the balance of power system was most evident in Europe, particularly since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, and it continues to be a crucial concept in realist theories of international politics. But the power balance is not a fixed state; it can change with shifts in military strength, economic clout, technological innovation or the rise of new actors. Critics say that while it might deter global wars, it also sparks arms races and instability in the regions where rivalries are rooted, maintaining -- and sometimes deepening -- the rivalries.

#### **4.5. BALANCE OF POWER IN THE COLD WAR**

This balance was principally characterised by the ideological, military and political competition of the capitalist West, led by the United States, against the communist East, led by the Soviet Union. Instead, it relied on deterrence, with the two superpowers sporting massive nuclear arsenals to avert direct conflict; neither side could afford an all-out war, for both were vulnerable to the threat of Mutually

Assured Destruction. This equilibrium was also demonstrated through proxy wars, arms races, and alliances that reflected the desire of both superpowers for global reach, whether through supporting opposing sides in local conflicts rather than through direct military contact. The Cold War balance of power system was held together by a fragile equilibrium of military strength, ideological rivalry, and diplomatic positioning, whereby the U.S. and the USSR competed, but rarely fought, for global supremacy. Thus, the balance of bipolarity came to an end with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the beginning of a unipolar world dominated by the U.S.

#### **4.6. SUMMARY POINTS**

- Power is a core concept with various dimensions in political science and international relations, which refers to the capacity of an individual, group or state to influence the actions, decisions or outcomes of others. Power, at its most fundamental level, is the ability to achieve ends, through coercive, persuasive or collaborative means.
- Realist theories, for example, are more likely to emphasise the material capability that accounts for a state's position in the international pecking order: military strength, economic resources, population size, and territory. But contemporary readings broaden this horizon to also include soft power — a term popularised by Joseph Nye — which emphasises the significance of attraction and cultural impact in global affairs. And so power also plays out in structural and relational ways, influencing norms, institutions, and frameworks of global governance.
- The increasing globalisation has provided various non-state actors in the discursive space, leading to a diffusion of power that not only adds to the complexity of the subject of analysis itself but also invokes questions about what extent global actors behave as independent agents in world politics.
- The rise of new global powers and the diminishing role of military primacy as a determinant of power also challenge existing hierarchies, while the burdens of international law and regional cooperation frameworks frequently drag on states' freedom of action. These dynamics shape the exercise of power in a rising range of ways that are both complex and disputed in our interconnected world.

#### **4.7. Self-Assessment Questions**

- 1.** What is the role of power in shaping international relations and global order?
- 2.** How do soft power and hard power differ, and how are they utilised in modern diplomacy?
- 3.** What is the difference between tangible and intangible sources of power?
- 4.** How has the concept of power evolved from classical realism to contemporary theories of international relations?
- 5.** How do non-state actors, such as multinational corporations and NGOs, challenge traditional state-centric power structures?
- 6.** To what extent do military capabilities determine a state's power in the 21st century?

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**Unit 05**

# **NATIONAL INTERESTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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Figure 5.1

## INTRODUCTION

National interest stands as a cornerstone concept in International Relations, shaping the decisions and actions of states on the global stage. It serves as the primary framework through which governments formulate foreign policy, establish alliances, and engage in diplomacy. Whether driven by security concerns, economic ambitions, ideological goals, or a combination of these factors, national interest determines how states navigate an international system characterised by both competition and cooperation.

This unit investigates how states define and prioritise their national interests, examining the domestic and international factors that influence these choices. Students will analyse case studies of state behaviour to understand how national interest informs strategic decision-making—from military interventions and trade agreements to participation in international institutions. Additionally, the unit explores how shifting global dynamics, such as technological advancements, transnational threats, and changing power structures, redefine what constitutes national interest in the 21st century.

By engaging with this concept, students will develop a critical lens for interpreting state actions and predicting future trends in global politics. Understanding national interest not only provides insight into individual state behaviour but also illuminates broader patterns of conflict, collaboration, and power distribution in the international system. This knowledge is essential for anyone seeking to analyse contemporary world affairs or pursue a career in diplomacy, policy, or international relations research.

The national interest is such an inherently fundamental concept in IR that it includes all of the strategic objectives and core priorities that a state tends to seek in its attempts to secure survival, protect sovereignty, and ensure prosperity. Such objectives are mostly the guiding principles for a nation-state's foreign policy and domestic strategies, influencing everything from defence and diplomacy to economic partnerships and trade policy. National interests depict the primary needs of a state to seek security and territorial integrity, and long-term ambitions for economic development.

Growth, global influence, and cultural preservation in the social domain. Therefore, the focus of this Unit is on the concept of national interest and its complex nature in the international system.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- To explain the nature of national interests
- To describe the role of various factors supporting national interest
- To understand the varying perspectives on national interest
- To comprehend the challenges to the national interest

## 5.1. WHAT IS NATIONAL INTEREST

The concept of national interest shows why states engage in alliances, negotiations, and conflicts in international relations, and provides a framework to examine the success or failure of their foreign policies. States operate in a system of anarchy with no authority to enforce compliance in this chaotic system, so they have to define and prioritise their interests carefully. National interests act as a compass directing states towards international politics through adopting various strategies for the security of their national interests. Thus, states prefer to create balance, make alliances, acquire power, sign different agreements, and join multilateral institutions for the achievement of their national interest.

## 5.2. DEFINING NATIONAL INTEREST

The national interest is, therefore, not a static or universal concept; it is, in fact, heavily influenced by that nation's history, geography, ideology, and internal political Climate at its given time. For example, a state that is surrounded by hostile neighbours gives priority to security above anything else, while one endowed with abundant natural resources might focus more on economic growth and trade with the outside world. Similarly, the evolution of national interest may take place at different times as states respond to changes in the international environment, which may include technological innovations, global power shifts, and environmental changes. How national interest is defined has been a matter of varied scholarly interpretations among academics aligned to different schools of thought in international relations. Such interpretations often reflect the underlying assumptions of their respective theories about the behaviour of states and the nature of international politics. In this way, the phenomenon of national interest can be defined as;

“National interest is the survival of the state and the pursuit of power to ensure its security and position in the international system.” **(Hans J. Morgenthau)**

“National interest is 'the general, long-term, and continuing purpose which a state seeks to accomplish in its relations with other states. **(Joseph Frankel)**

“National interest is primarily concerned with the material and economic well-being of the nation, ensuring its prosperity and wealth.” **(Charles A. Beard)**

“National interest represents a framework for understanding the priorities of the state as determined by its leaders in light of internal and external pressures. **(Graham Allison)**

“National interest focuses on 'the need to safeguard the territorial, political, and economic security of a state against external and internal threats.” **(Barry Buzan)**

“National interest is 'closely tied to the idea of cooperative engagement with the international community for mutual benefits and the avoidance of conflict.” (Norman Angell)

### 5.3. Different Perspectives of National Interests

The phenomenon of national interest has the following varying perspectives.

**a) Realist Perspective:**

Realists have maintained most of the traditional discourse on international relations related to the concept of national interest. Realists regard national interest as a consideration mostly in terms of power and security. For realists, the anarchic structure of the international system forces states to prioritise their survival above everything else. Hans Morgenthau, one of the leading realist theorists, argued that “national interest is defined in terms of power,” which includes military strength, political influence, and economic capacity. Realists assert that states are rational actors seeking to maximise their power vis-à-vis others, as a failure to do so could lead to existential threats. For example, during the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union focused on military and ideological power to maintain their dominance in a bipolar world order.

**b) Liberal Perspective:**

Contrary to the realist view, liberal scholarship goes beyond an obsession with power or security. According to liberalism, national interests are more than survival; they cover economic interdependence, global cooperation, and universal values such as democracy and human rights. Woodrow Wilson emphasised this liberal approach when he advocated for the establishment of the League of Nations. Liberals believe that states could achieve their interests through cooperation and institutions that ameliorate the ambiguities of an anarchic system. The European Union, for example, demonstrated that economic and political integration can serve the collective national interests of member states.

**c) Constructivist Perspective:**

For constructivism, national interests are not predetermined but socially constructed through interaction and shared norms. “Anarchy is what states make of it,” according to Alexander Wendt, actually means that the nature of the international system—and consequently a state's national interest—depends on the identities, beliefs, and practices of its actors. Constructivists argue that national interests are not just influenced by material power alone; cultural and ideological factors play a central role in shaping a state's goals. Thus, the alignment between NATO countries does not represent only common security concerns but also reflects common democratic values and cultural affinities.

**d) Marxist Perspective:**

Marxists and neo-Marxist scholars condemn the concept of national interest for being

an extension of capitalist elite goals against the larger population. They argue that very often what the states seek to advocate under the pretext of serving the national interest serves the interests of the economically powerful, such as national corporations, whose ends these policies really serve. This aspect indicates that economic exploitation and global inequality define state behaviour. One example is how the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq would be seen under a Marxist view - as serving corporate interests in oil under the pretext of national security. These diverse interpretations highlight that national interest is a multifaceted and contested concept, shaped by the theoretical framework through which it is analysed.

In short, realists see power, Liberals emphasise cooperation, constructivists stress identity, and Marxists target exploitation, all contribute to a richer understanding of how states define and pursue their goals.

#### **5.4. TYPES OF NATIONAL INTEREST**

National interests can be broadly categorised based on their scope and focus, encompassing both primary goals and long-term ambitions. These categories help Policymakers align their strategies with specific goals and determine the trade-offs involved in achieving them.

**a) Survival Interests:**

Survival interests are states' most crucial priorities- they entail preserving territorial integrity and sovereignty as well as political independence. Compromise on these does not exist; as it threatens the very existence of the state. For example, the United States had determined a survival interest by opposing the Soviet nuclear missiles stationed in Cuba, which posed flags of direct threat towards its territorial security during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

**b) Security Interests:**

Security interests extend further beyond survival to encompass maintaining internal stability, defending against external aggression, and deterring potential threats. These interests often involve building military alliances, strengthening defence capabilities, and engaging in intelligence operations. The formation of NATO in 1949 was a reflection of the security interests of Western European states and the United States against the Soviet threat during the Cold War.

**c) Economic Interests:**

Economic interests involve securing access to resources, markets, trade routes, and technologies essential for the prosperity and development of a nation. These interests often drive foreign investments, trade agreements, and economic partnerships for example, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one such case and is extremely illustrative of the country's economic interest, as it involves the

construction of a pavement of integrated infrastructures that facilitate trade accessibility and guarantee access to global markets.

**d) Ideological Interests:**

Ideological interest refers to the pursuit of the values that each state promotes, whether political, cultural, or religious, on the global stage. Such interests are often imbued in the identity of the state itself, which uses such interests in shaping global order consistent with the state's values. The United States' policy of containment during the Cold War was driven by an ideological interest in preventing the spread of communism and promoting liberal democracy.

**e) Prestige and Status Interests:**

These kinds of interests focus on enhancing a state's reputation and soft power on a global scale. These interests are often pursued through feats in science, sports, culture, or humanitarian causes. For instance, the 2023 Chandrayaan-3 mission of India to the Moon has once again proved its status as an emerging global actor in space exploration.

**f) Environmental Interests:**

Presently, the national interest is defined very much in terms of environmental sustainability, especially by the states most vulnerable to climate change. To meet these interests, states participate in international agreements and strive to adopt green technologies to mitigate environmental issues and climate change. The Paris Climate Agreement reflects the environmental interests of nations seeking to address the global challenge of climate change collectively. All these types of national interests often intersect and overlap, thereby giving the states an overview of competing interests. For example, a country might weigh competing interests such as, say, that of economic interests vis-a-vis environmental commitments or ideological agendas and security concerns.

## **5.5. EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL INTERESTS**

National interests metamorphosed drastically over centuries, reflecting changing global power patterns, changing technologies, and changing societal values. These evolve to take care of concerns beyond traditional survival and territorial expansion.

The more modern issues such as cyber security and sustainable development. This evolution can be divided into several key historical phases:

**a) Early Statecraft (Pre-19th Century)**

In the early modern period, national interests were all about survival and sovereignty, therefore, territorial expansion. Such priorities were established under

the feudal and dynastic model of governance, with monarchs seeing the state as an extension of their very own domains. Territorial disputes, wars of succession, and trade control were common, with little focus on wider ideological or economic frameworks. The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) marked a milestone in defining national interests around sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Thirty Years' War ended with this treaty, and the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of states became a cornerstone of modern international relations. States exercised sovereign control over lucrative trade routes in the Age of Exploration, leading to the colonisation of wide territories in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Colonial powers saw control over these territories as crucial for economic and strategic dominance.

**b) Colonial and Imperial Era (19th Century)**

The 19th century saw the rise of imperialism and industrialization, which redefined national interests in terms of resource extraction and economic expansion. The acquisition of colonies rapidly became an important strategy for ensuring raw materials, cheap labour, and markets for manufactured products. State prestige also played a contributing role, as imperial powers competed for dominance in an increasingly globalised world. The policy of Britain during the Industrial Revolution exemplifies this era. The colonisation of India and exploitation of its resources were reflective of Britain's national interest, driven by its economic needs. For example, the construction of infrastructure like railways in colonies often served the dual purpose of extracting wealth and demonstrating imperial power. Consequently, as a result of prolonged imperial rule, the colonies experienced nationalist movements which began to challenge Imperial dominance. This signalled the emergence of self-determination and sovereignty as a growing concern for the colonised nations.

**c) World Wars and Geopolitical Rivalries (20th Century)**

The 20th century brought unprecedented challenges to the international system. It reinforced the concept of national interests centring around security, ideological supremacy and technological innovation as the two world wars unfolded and, later on, the Cold War.

**d) During World War I and World War II:**

National interests were primarily about the survival of nation-states, which had to mobilise large amounts of resources to defend themselves against existential threats. Economic interests again became a priority for the warring states, The Lend-Lease program resulted from the necessity of the United States to support the countries that were on its side in WWII without open intervention in the conflict until the attack on Pearl Harbour.

**e) Cold War Era:**

A new dimension to national interests was added with the ideological divide between capitalism and communism. The United States and the Soviet Union aimed at achieving dominance through proxy wars, allies, and technological prowess. The Marshall Plan (1948) was the U.S.'s success in using economic and ideological interests, pooling funds to rebuild Western Europe to deter the growing influence and expansion of communism. Likewise, the space race also showed that technological advancement was inextricably attached to state pride and defence.

## **5.6. MODERN FORM OF NATIONALISM**

The Cold War ended with the triumph of the United States and the start of a unipolar order that was dominated by the US. Globalisation became part and parcel of the very fabric of international relations, with national interests increasingly focused on multilateral cooperation, technological innovation, and economic interdependence.

**a) Economic Interdependence:**

It was in this direction that trade agreements and regional organisations, such as the EU and ASEAN, projected the shift toward collective economic interests. States came to understand that interconnected markets and supply chains could stimulate growth and stability. The creation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 1995 reflected the collective economic interests of participating states, thus institutionalising global trade norms.

**b) Security and Terrorism:**

Security interests were reconfigured, especially in the light of non-state actors, such as terrorist organisations. States began to prioritise counterterrorism measures and intelligence-sharing mechanisms. In 2001, the United States' invasion of Afghanistan following the events of September 11 showcased a shift toward viewing non-state threats as security concerns.

**c) Multilateral Environmental Efforts:**

A new pressing area of interest was environmental sustainability, as states began to realise the consequences of the global issues like climate change and depletion of resources. The new international environment agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris Agreement (2015), showcased the growing collective environmental interests of states about climate change mitigation.

**d) Technological and Digital Age (21st Century)**

The 21st century saw changes in national interests due to advances in technology, such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and space exploration, which became the three core strategic areas of the developed states. States are now competing to

dominate emerging technologies, as these are seen as essential to both national security and economic prosperity. The artificial intelligence and 5G race between the U.S. and China is already an example of how technology has become intertwined with national interests: both countries view technological superiority as a means of securing economic and military advantages. Moreover, environmental challenges and global health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have further expanded the horizon of national interests.

## **5.7. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL INTERESTS**

Failure to achieve national interests can have severe consequences for a state, often jeopardising its sovereignty, security, economic stability, and global standing. Weak strategic planning, inability to adapt to new circumstances or external factors such as foreign aggression or global crises usually lead to these failures. Given below is a brief examination of the consequences, supported by historical and contemporary examples.

### **a) Loss of Sovereignty**

The most serious impact of failure to safeguard net national interests is the loss of sovereignty, where a state cannot exercise independent control over its territory or governance anymore. Foreign invasions, occupations, or excessive dependence on external actors for economic or military support are factors that can lead to jeopardise sovereignty.

### **b) Partition of Poland**

Poland's partition by its neighbouring powers of Russia, Prussia, and Austria in 1772, 1793, and 1795 followed its inability to keep a strong central government and defend itself from external pressures. For more than a century, Poland ceased to exist as an independent state, demonstrating how internal weaknesses can lead to a failure to protect sovereignty and disastrous consequences.

### **c) Post-Colonial Dependence in Africa:**

Many African countries, after gaining independence in the mid-20th century, struggled with maintaining economic and political sovereignty. They relied excessively on foreign aid and loans from institutions like the IMF, which resulted in their economic policies being dictated by external entities, undermining their autonomy.

### **d) Economic Decline and Stagnation**

Economic interests are paramount to a state's prosperity and global standing. Failing to secure these interests can lead to economic crises, dependency or stagnation, which can weaken a state's position both domestically and internationally.

**e) Economic Crises in Argentina:**

The lack of consistency in enacting economic reforms and reducing national debt caused Argentina to have recurrent financial crises, such as the 2001 default, the largest debt default by a sovereign state in history at the time. This economic instability diminished the little global economic influence it had and exacerbated domestic poverty and inequality.

**f) Pakistan's Economic Challenges:**

Pakistan has been unable to prioritise sustainable economic policies since the 1990s, has heavily relied on external debt and failed to industrialise effectively, all of which led to recurring balance-of-payments crises. This has negatively impacted many broader national interests, from regional influence to military modernization.

**g) Security Vulnerabilities**

Failure to safeguard security interests exposes states to internal instability, external aggression, or the emergence of non-state actors that challenge the state's Authority. Security vulnerabilities can destabilise a nation and even the surrounding region.

**h) Afghanistan Post-Soviet Withdrawal (1989):**

Once the Soviet troops withdrew and the Afghan government collapsed in the 1990s, a civil war broke out in Afghanistan, resulting in a power vacuum that was filled by the Taliban takeover. The failure to establish a stable government not only affected Afghanistan but also contributed much to regional instability and the threat of transnational terrorism.

## 5.8. SUMMARY POINTS

- National interest refers to strategic goals and priorities undertaken by a nation to realise survival, security, or well-being. It could take various forms in the international system while gaining significance in the world, as exemplified by the objectives encompassing protection of territorial integrity linked to the concept of sovereignty; the preservation of political sovereignty, economic well-being; and promotion of cultural values or ideologies.
- Realists like Hans Morgenthau emphasize how national interest is power and security-oriented, while liberals instead underline multileveled cooperation and mutual benefit in an international relationship. It is generally a dynamic overview having changing attributes with shifting domestic priorities, leadership, and global contexts. National interest acts as a framework for foreign policy choices and is determined by elements like internal stability, external threats, and the interplay of economic and geopolitical considerations.
- While rooted in pragmatic concerns, national interest is, however, influenced by the identities, values, and norms of a society. It is Thus a balance between material and ideological pursuits within the international system.

## **5.9. Self-Assessment Questions**

1. What is the definition of national interest, and how does it shape a country's foreign policy?
2. How do realist and liberal theories of international relations differ in their interpretation of national interest?
3. How do economic priorities influence a nation's definition of its national interest?
4. How does globalisation impact the traditional understanding of national interest?
5. What are the consequences of a state pursuing its national interest aggressively at the expense of international cooperation?

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**Unit 06**

# **CONCEPT OF NATIONALISM**

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## INTRODUCTION

Nationalism remains one of the most potent forces shaping political identities and international relations. As both a unifying ideology and a source of conflict, it has played a pivotal role in the formation of nation-states, the redrawing of borders, and the mobilisation of populations throughout modern history. This unit explores how nationalist sentiments influence state behaviour, fuel independence movements, and impact global stability, from 19th-century revolutions to today's populist surges and separatist struggles.

Students will examine nationalism's dual nature: its capacity to strengthen collective identity and sovereignty while also provoking exclusionary policies, territorial disputes, and violent extremism. The unit analyses key historical and contemporary case studies, demonstrating how nationalism drives political agendas, shapes foreign policy, and challenges multilateral cooperation. Special attention will be given to its resurgence in the 21st century, particularly in response to globalisation, migration, and perceived threats to cultural autonomy.

By studying nationalism's ideological foundations and real-world consequences, students will gain critical tools to assess its role in current geopolitical tensions, from great-power rivalries to regional conflicts. This unit not only deepens understanding of a core IR concept but also equips learners to engage with debates about citizenship, self-determination, and the future of the international order in an increasingly fragmented world.

The main concentration of this Unit is on the concept of nationalism and its role in shaping various independence movements around the globe. The main components of nationalism originate from the distinct social, political, and ideological associations of the communities, which sometimes pose serious threats to the main theme of national integration under dissimilar governments. The evolution of nationalism in the contemporary international system can be traced through studying the intra-state clashes of states located in different regions. Thus, the concept of nationalism and its unprecedented growth around the globe creates a complex picture of the international system where legitimate political regimes are facing difficulties in addressing the multifaceted issues of nationalism. In this way, this Unit deals with the core concept of nationalism, its varying attributes, and its relevance to the present international system.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- What is Nationalism
- Types of Nationalism
- Core Assumptions of Nationalism
- Historical Growth

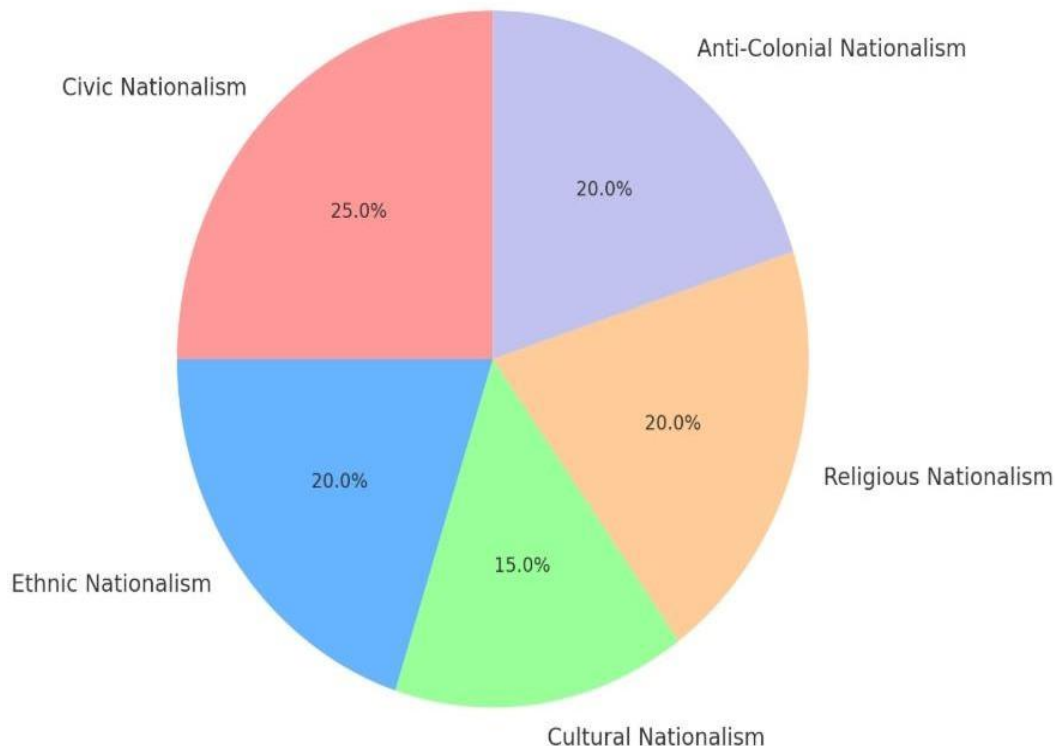
## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- To understand the basic concept of nationalism
- To discuss the core assumptions of nationalism
- To comprehend the various characteristics of nationalism
- To explain the relevance of nationalism to the contemporary power politics

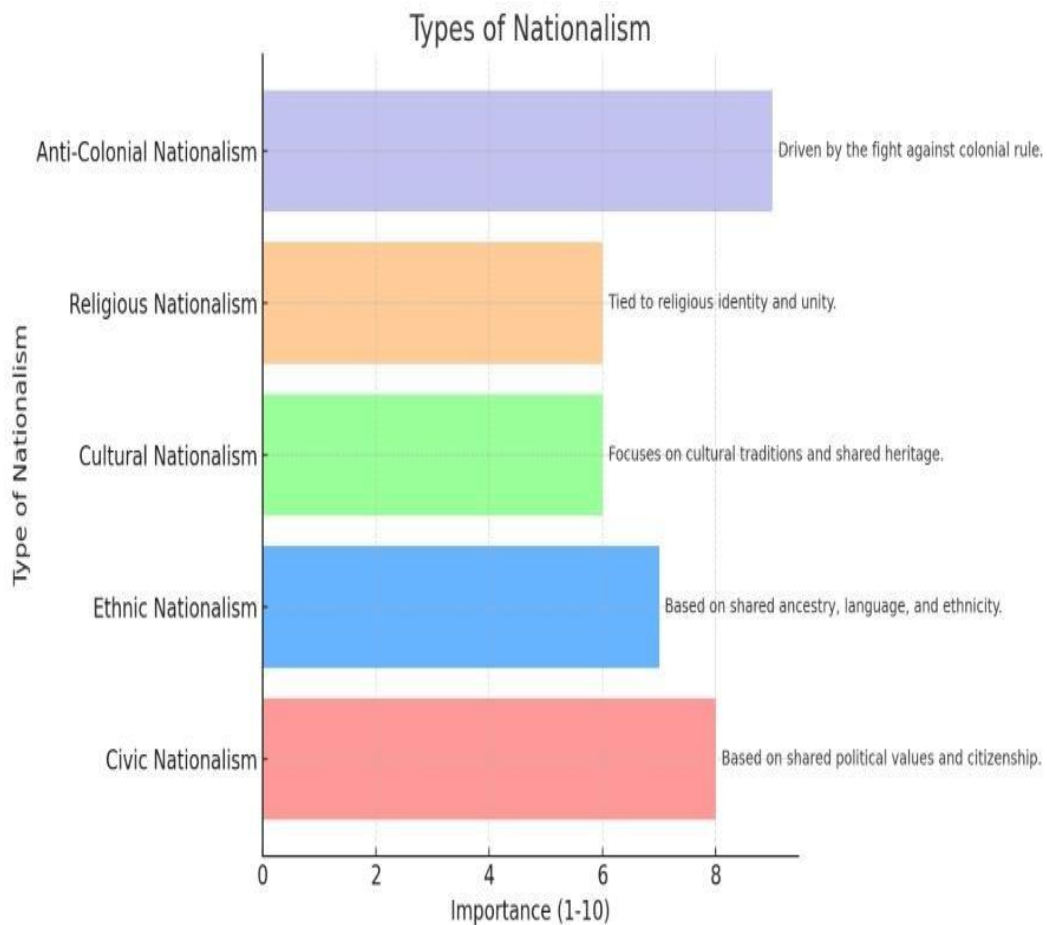
## 6.1. WHAT IS NATIONALISM

The fundamental concept of nationalism is a multifaceted idea that deals with the national cohesion of a state while focusing on the centrality of a nation. The relevance of centrality with the fundamental united values of states primarily generates the political, social, ideological, and cultural differences of nations under specific political demands. The main theme of nationalism instils a sense of self-determination in a group of people and raises the challenging demands of specific people based on their ethnic differences or political grievances. The inclusion of ethnic and cultural voices in the debate of nationalism further complicates the situation when the government authorities face critical circumstances in dealing with the problem of nationalism. The complete sense of nationalism can be obtained from the history of the international system in which the states across the globe experienced different forms of nationalism. The historical cases are the American Revolution, French Revolution, Anti-Apartheid Regime of South Africa, Partition of Subcontinent, and the rise of European and African models of nationalism, These cases provide a glimpse of nationalism and its prevalence in the international system. The concept of nationalism has subjective variation, which could be understood with the help of the following figure.



**Figure 6.1**

The figure explains the influences of different formats of nationalism on world history and the continuation of these trends of nationalism in the contemporary international system. The different types of nationalism emerged in the world as a response to specific structural forces, which ultimately changed the political landscape of states and regions throughout world politics. The conceptual and practical characteristics of varying nationalistic sentiments and their wider societal growth always shocked the history of world politics. In this way, the following chart explains different types of nationalism.



**Figure 6.2**

## 6.2. TYPES OF NATIONALISM

The concept of nationalism comprises a multifaceted format that formulates its various forms based on distinct objectives, varying characteristics, and conflicting goals. The emergence of different types of nationalism throughout world history has

evolved its conceptual frameworks, which could be identified in the following lines.

- Somehow, the writing style in this Unit has drastically changed, and it is often confusing, at the least. **Civic Nationalism:** focuses on the common political thoughts cemented in varying ethnic or social identities.

**Example:** United States, where the people with diverse backgrounds are united under a single, constitutional framework. The French political system after the historical revolution is important in this case as well.

- **Ethnic Nationalism:** emphasises the unity among people based on their common languages, culture, or shared heritage.

**Example:** Germany's unification and the modern form of German nationalism are supported by the common ethnic culture and language of the German people.

- **Cultural Nationalism:** underlined the cultural associations of people beyond territorially defined state borders. This format of nationalism could survive without a specific state.

**Example:** Cultural nationalism can be seen in Ireland's case, where the Irish language and folklore are the dominating factors. The example of Native American culture is also appropriate for understanding the cultural nationalism.

- **Religious Nationalism:** refers to the promotion of a specific identity based on certain religious thoughts while making it an essential element of national unity.

**Examples:** Zionism of Israel is an appropriate case in which the Jewish community from around the globe is committed to creating their formal homeland. The example of Hindu nationalism in India, originating from Hindutva's political thoughts and their countrywide advancement, is an important case.

- **Anti-Colonial Nationalism:** explains the rise of independence voices against the colonial rules, and struggling for the rights of independence and self-determination.

**Example:** the partition of the subcontinent and the emergence of the independence movement by domestic leaders such as Mohandas Gandhi and M.A. Jinnah. Various cases of African nationalism are considered internationally as anti-colonial movements against foreign interventions.

### 6.3. CORE ASSUMPTIONS OF NATIONALISM

The core assumptions of nationalism are primarily considered the fundamental ideas to formulate the main concept of an ideology. The ideology is generally based on certain assumptions, which are the following.

- **Nation as a Fundamental Object**

It assumes that the nation is the primary and critical component of the international system, considering that states are the most important political units. The concept of a nation is generally driven by various shared features consisting of a common culture, ideology, and language. These values flourish by promoting a specific collective consciousness while instilling a common sense of unity in public.

- **Sovereign Values**

The combination of self-determination and political legitimation generally formulates the concept of nationalism and its prevalence across the globe. The right of self-determination leads a group of people to acquire independent status and achieve formal recognition in the world. The acquisition of formal recognition subsequently attains political legitimacy for the achievement of a larger interest cemented in a specific form of nationalism.

- **Cultural Homogeneity**

The main idea of nationalism is a nation united by various common values of a shared culture. The prevalence of such cultural values inherited in the common language, customs, and traditions develops cultural unity in a group of people and convinces them to become prominent nationalists. In this case, the cultural heritage fosters unity and cohesiveness in a country and considers their nationalist demands legitimate.

- **Exclusivity and Unity**

The core concept generally assumes an exclusive aspect of unity against foreign interventions, or it is commonly called a struggle against outsiders. The opposition of native people against the robust influences of outsiders creates explicit voices of securing domestic values under a common voice, which leads towards an exclusivity of unity among people.

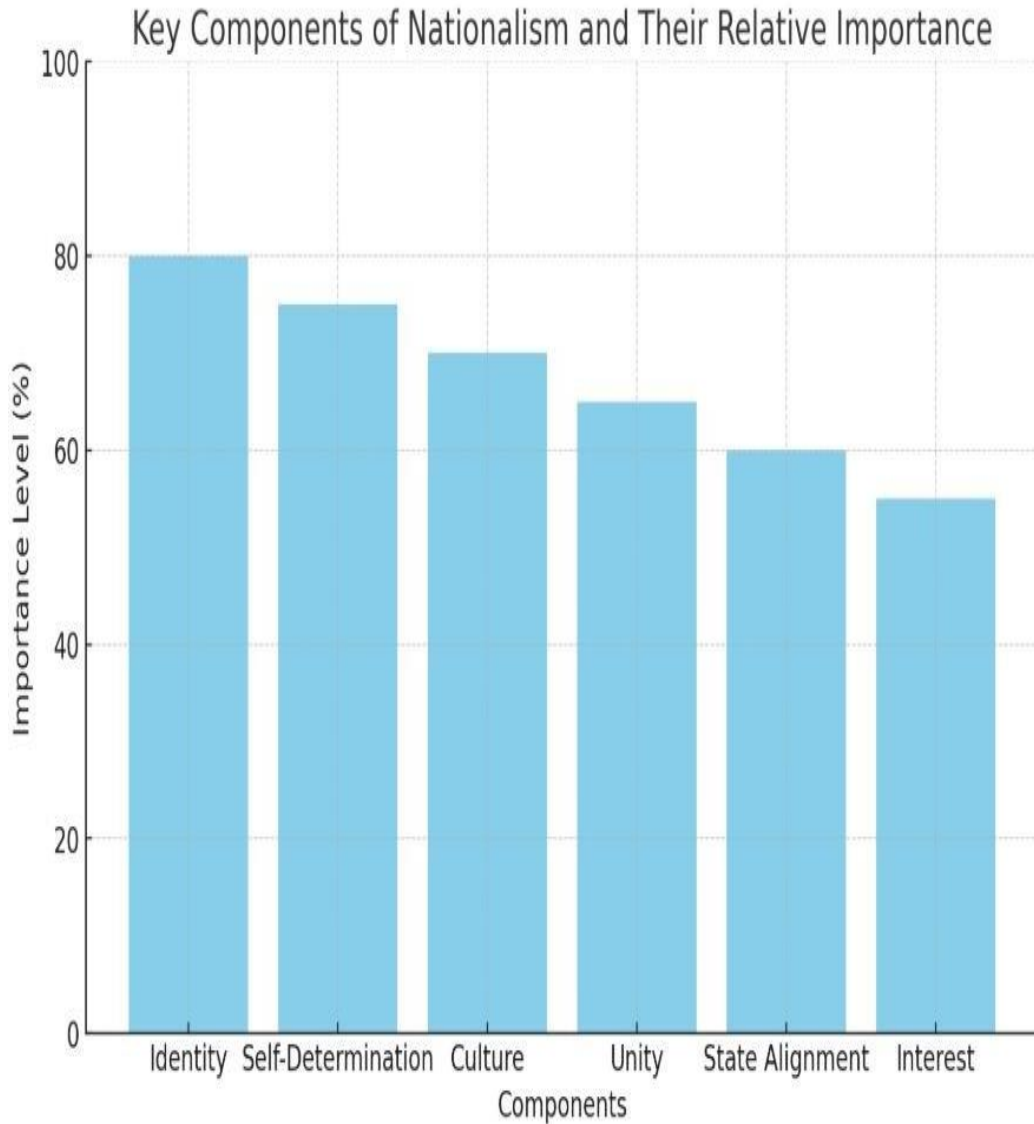
- **National Self-Interest**

The concept of nationalism defines the cooperative foundations of a group of people assuming shared interests over the interests of other nations. In this scenario, the nation's welfare based on economic interest, foreign relations and cultural preservation plays important role and creates a protectionist behaviour supported by a defined rhetoric. This rhetoric defines the goals of a population under specific political rule.

The above-mentioned assumptions proved that the phenomenon of nationalism has gained a momentous value in the history of international relations, and the countries suffering from various types of nationalism have witnessed major development in their internal political structures. In addition to tracing the historical genesis of nationalism and its evolution under diverse political circumstances of

states, the contemporary international system is still observing the multileveled growth of nationalism across the globe.

To understand the concept of nationalism and its core component in the contemporary international system, the following chart is helpful in identifying the key factors generating nationalism in a group of people.



**Figure 6.3**

## 6.4. HISTORICAL GROWTH OF NATIONALISM

The history of the international system has witnessed the multidimensional worldwide rise of nationalism under different political administrations parallel to posing several threats to the established political system. To comprehend the historical evolution of nationalism, a brief overview of international political history can be provided on the following lines.

- **Pre-Modern Nationalism:** The genesis of nationalism can be traced in the origin of nationalist sentiments, in which the ideas of tribal, ethnic, and religious beliefs emerged across the globe and laid the foundations of various nationalist Sentiments. In this regard, the ancient Greece city-state system developed the loyalty of people to the central government. Moreover, the spread of ideological or religious-based identities in the form of Christendom and the Islamic Caliphate emerged.
- **Modern Nationalism:** The modern forms of nationalism primarily emerged from the two main revolutions of the world, the American and French revolutions. Both revolutions instilled an idea of nation states based on independent and sovereign values against foreign interventions. These revolutions proved to be the foundational elements of contemporary forms of nationalism, where the non-democratic forces have become potentially irrelevant in the system.
- **Nation-State Formation:** The idea of nationalism always remained one of the main defining components of the contemporary international system, in which the fragmented people of a certain region start realising their potential for unity. The unity among fragmented people generally creates unity based on a common ethnic or cultural basis, where unification movements of the states are important, such as Italy and Germany. Italy under Garibaldi and Cavour and Germany under Otto Von Bismarck are the appropriate examples. Additionally, Romantic nationalism of Eastern Europe and anti-colonial nationalism of India and Latin America further validated the concept of nation-state formation under defined nationalist sentiments.
- **Decolonisation Era:** The cases of two great wars (World War I and II) reverified the relevance of nationalist sentiment to the international system while accepting the key role multistate conflict played in their respective forms of nationalism. German Nazi is the appropriate example which could further be rationalized with the rise of a globe wave of decolonization as the result of ending British colonial rule from African, Middle Eastern and South Asian regions. Moreover, the European models of nationalism were also for the security of their indigenous, independent and sovereign values. The decades- Long era of the Cold War could also be considered important in the study of decolonisation.

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nationalism:** The 21<sup>st</sup> century cannot be separated from the impacts of globalisation which has become a potential force of effecting the specific identifies of the people living under different political regimes. The challenges of globalization have jeopardized the existing values of various nationalist ideologies, the voices that parallel fostering economic interdependence and societal interconnectedness around the globe.

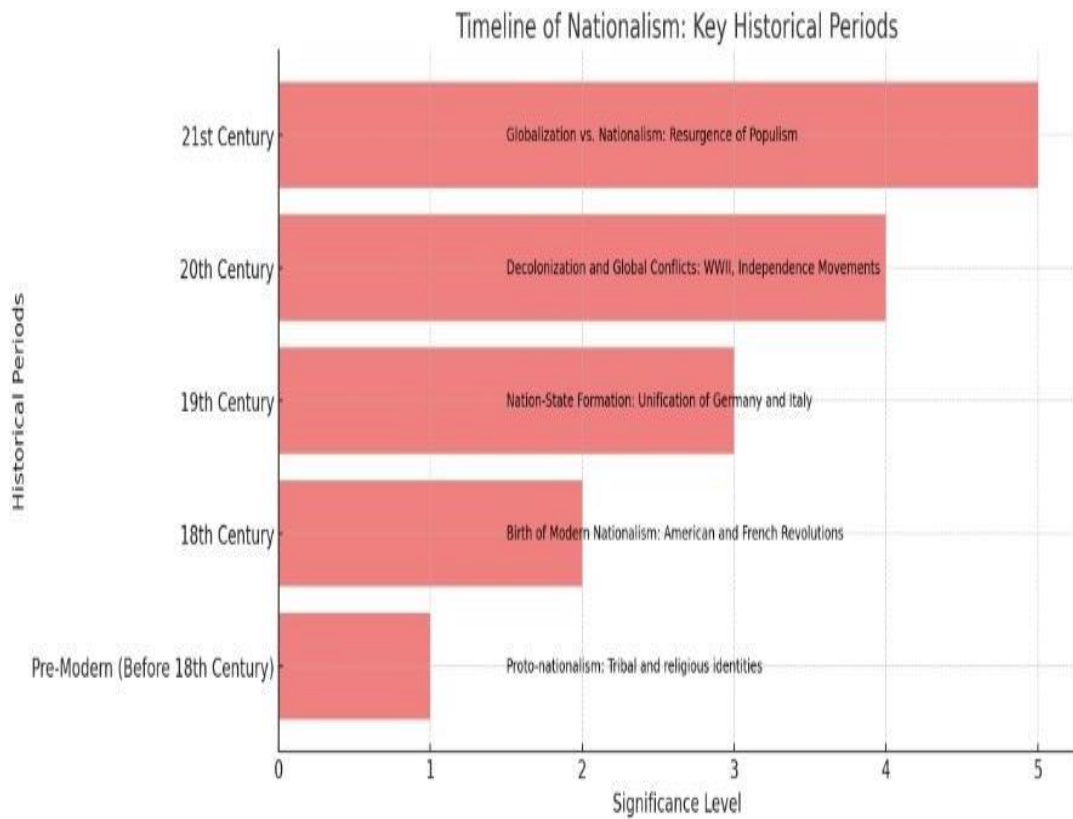
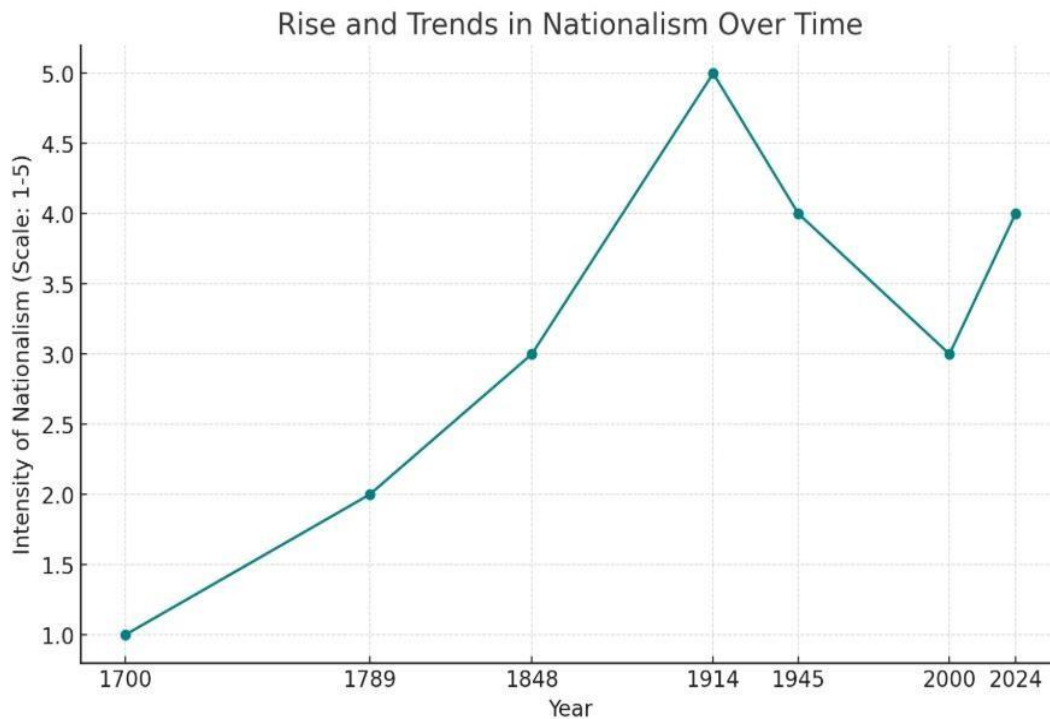


Figure 6.4



**Figure 6.5**

## **6.5. NATIONALISM AND MODERN STATE SYSTEM**

The modern forms of nationalism contain challenging scenarios in which the state leaders prefer to adopt strict laws to ensure national integration in the domestic system. The role of technology is important in this regard, because the arrival of modern tools of information technology and the spread of different digitally functioning discussion platforms have changed the conventional formats of nationalism in the world. The rise of various social media channels with the dramatic advancement of information communication technologies and the growing societal appreciation of the digital communication platforms has changed the global culture. The close alignment of the international system with the changing digital realities of the world has upgraded the conventional trends of nationalism. The alteration in the conventionally strong nationalistic sentiments of the states can be measured on the following points.

- Hungarian nationalism under Viktor Orbán emphasises the cultural values and resists immigration.
- Donald Trump’s campaign of “America First” and its decision to leave major agreements of international agreements.
- British decision to leave the multilateral cooperative framework of the European Union under Brexit.

- Ideologically driven ultra-nationalist agenda of Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, from the platform of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- The widespread support of China and its policies in the areas of Hong Kong or Taiwan.
- The Green Nationalism of Norway is prominent in the world in which the Norwegian nation is greatly relying on the sustainable energy production with the objective of protecting its natural heritage.
- The promotion of shared cultural and dependent political values of Scottish people with the support of their democratic ideas.
- Turkish nationalism was introduced and advanced by President Erdogan for the revival of the Ottoman of defining Turkish identity.

## 6.6. ARAB SPRING

The Arab Spring refers to a wave of protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions against the existing regimes sweeping much of the Arab world in the early 2010s, and had an impact on nationalism. They were characterised by wider calls for greater change consisting of political freedom, economic justice, societal equality and social reform against old orders. It both redefined the boundaries of nationalism in the Arab world constructively and destructively. The Arab Spring reshaped nationalism in the Arab world: it shifted between hope in democratic national identity and challenges of fragmentation and conflict. It therefore remains a very pivotal chapter in the modern history of this region. The Arab Spring proved to be an exclusive scenario, proving the presence of nationalist sentiments in the modern world.

### Key Themes of the Arab Spring

Theme	Explanation
Economic Grievances	Unemployment, corruption, and rising costs of living drove many uprisings.
Demand for Political Reform	Calls for democracy, human rights, and an end to authoritarian rule.
Role of Social Media	Platforms like Facebook and Twitter mobilized protests and spread awareness.
International Involvement	NATO in Libya, Saudi Arabia in Bahrain, and Iran in Yemen influenced outcomes.
Fragmentation and Civil War	Libya, Syria, and Yemen became engulfed in prolonged conflicts.

**Table 6.6**

## 6.7. SUMMARY POINTS

- The presence of nationalism cannot be overlooked in the history of international relations, in which the legitimate state structures under diverse political changes witnessed the broader waves of nationalism. Nationalism is a political ideology and movement that stresses belief in the shared identity of a nation, usually defined by common culture, language, history, or values.
- It advocates for the sovereignty of the nation-state and asserts that a group of people with a common identity should have the right to govern themselves and determine their political destiny. The spread of nationalist thought among people has become an undeniable reality demanding explicit alterations in the ongoing political arrangements of states.
- Nationalism came forth in the late 18th century, and its rise was significantly influenced by the French and American revolutions. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it emerged as a major force in movements for independence, unification (as in Germany and Italy), and anti-colonialism.
- Nationalism remains a strong force in both positive and negative dimensions. On the one hand, it can bring people together and drive self-determination against a specific rule of law. On the other hand, it involves exclusion, conflicts, and the balance of national interests against the prevailing influences of challenging political regimes. To understand nationalism, one needs to follow its historical evolution, cultural implications, and current manifestations in global politics.

## **6.8. Self-Assessment Questions**

1. Explain the concept of nationalism and its relevance to the international system
2. What are the main characteristics of nationalism in the world?
3. How do nationalist movements differ between developing and developed countries?
4. What is the connection between nationalism and independence movements?
5. How does nationalism affect relationships between countries?
6. How has globalisation changed the way people think about nationalism?

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**Unit 07**

# **CONCEPT OF DIPLOMACY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Unit focuses on diplomacy because it is the practice of managing international relations, communication, and negotiations between representatives of different states to resolve conflicts, promoting mutual interests, and maintain peace. It uses dialogue, persuasion, and negotiation to pursue national interests short of violence. For centuries, diplomacy was conducted along formal lines, through embassies or consulates, but nowadays it includes informal, multilateral and public diplomacy via international organisations, summits and media. Diplomacy includes an entire spectrum of activities from war prevention and trade negotiations to cultural exchanges and humanitarian efforts. The main purpose is to create and maintain plans for cooperation between countries, including avoiding misunderstandings or creating treaties that work for as many parties as possible. Diplomacy needs to be suited for the diverse challenges faced in a world today where impending global threats exist, including terrorism, climate change, and cybersecurity

demanding diplomats to work alongside an ever-expanding number of actors, including non-government actors, multinational corporations, and international institutions. In this way, the debate in this Unit attempts to provide a comprehensive picture of diplomacy to understand its conceptual understanding and practical application in contemporary world politics.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- What is Diplomacy
- What are the components of diplomacy
- History of diplomacy
- Modern forms of diplomacy

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- To explain the nature of diplomacy in the international system
- To debate the history of diplomacy in the world
- To understand different forms of diplomacy

## **7.1. WHAT IS DIPLOMACY**

In International Relations (IR), diplomacy refers to the planning of communication between and among states. It covers everything from trade agreements, security concerns and environmental challenges, to human rights and international law, to be resolved through communication, dialogue and negotiation. One of the most important tools that states have to manage their relationships is forming alliances, and the projection of power without using force is diplomacy. The practice of diplomacy is critical to peaceful coexistence and cooperation between states, and thus to the stability of the international system. In this way, aims to establish relations between states based on multifaceted trends of cooperating and conflicting under the broader diplomacy framework.

## **7.2. MAIN FUNCTIONS OF DIPLOMACY**

Diplomacy performs some essential functions, as it has evolved into one of the major tools that states rely on in their dealings with foreign countries. Representation is one of its most important functions, as diplomats communicate their country's interests and positions to foreign governments and international organizations. It bargains deals and settlements between states like trade agreements, alliances and security pacts, or environmental accords. Another primary function is conflict resolution, as diplomacy is a key tool for de-escalating tensions and preventing small.

Disputes from ballooning into wars. At the same time, diplomats collect and analyse information, giving governments critical intelligence on the political, economic and social environments in foreign countries. Diplomacy also serves to promote national interests, economic goals, and cultural ties through cultural and public diplomacy. Moreover, treaty-making is also a central feature of diplomacy, in which states engage in formal agreements on diverse issues of international concern. In effect, diplomacy fosters international cooperation, preserves peace, and strengthens a state's position by creating the conditions for conversation, understanding, and collaboration.

### **a) Representation**

Diplomacy is the means by which a state communicates its interests, policies and values to other nations and international organisations. Ambassadors, diplomats and consular representatives inform other states of what they represent and also articulate the position/status/goals of a state. This function serves to protect and promote, on the world stage, a state's interests. For example, U.S. ambassadors representing American foreign policy in the United Nations or other states could be treated as the appropriate case of representations in the form of diplomacy.

### **b) Negotiations**

Diplomatic negotiations are the core function of diplomacy, states negotiate with each other to resolve disputes, reach agreements and make concessions on a myriad of issues from trade to security, the environment and human rights. As intermediaries, diplomats broker discussions among parties while also ensuring that the interests of their state are secured collaboratively. Negotiated deals similar to the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA), where several countries negotiated with one another to limit the size of Iran's nuclear program in return for easing sanctions.

### **c) Conflict Prevention**

Another main task of diplomacy is to prevent, manage and resolve conflict between states. Through diplomatic messaging, mediation and or peacebuilding, diplomats can help defuse tensions, seek common interests, and help parties achieve peaceful solutions without resorting to war or violence. For example, the peace in the Camp David Accords (1978), in which U.S. diplomacy was able to impose an agreement between Egypt and Israel.

### **d) Information Gathering**

Diplomats and professional diplomacy aim to serve to advance and report on the political, economic and social changes in the host country. This information is essential in understanding foreign policy decisions and potential opportunities or threats. Example: Collecting intelligence on political instability or economic sanctions that may impact trade relations.

## **7.3. TOOLS OF DIPLOMACY**

The tools of diplomacy (by which we mean all the various methods and strategies states use to conduct their foreign relations, cooperate for common goals, and maintain peaceful relations with other states). One of them is negotiation, where diplomats discuss how to resolve conflicts and reach agreements that advance common interests. Diplomatic representation (e.g., foreign embassies and consulates). Public diplomacy uses cultural exchanges, media outreach, and educational programs to shape foreign public opinion and improve a country's global image. Economic diplomacy leverages trade agreements, investments and sanctions to shape global markets and advance national economic interests. Multilateral diplomacy with international organisations such as the UN or the EU to resolve worldwide challenges, and cultural diplomacy, in which you promote goodwill by promoting your country's culture and values abroad. Mediation to resolve conflicts; sanctions and incentives to enforce international norms; humanitarian diplomacy to provide aid and advocate for human rights; Track II diplomacy, or unofficial dialogues that build trust and promote peace; and more are other key tools. These tools allow states to maneuver through The interaction in international relations accomplishes their foreign policy objectives.

### **a. Public Diplomacy**

Public diplomacy is when a state uses communication and engagement strategies to

influence foreign audiences, shape their perceptions and in turn promote its own culture, values and policies to gain goodwill and promote a positive relationship with a foreign audience. Public diplomacy, therefore, is aimed at informal, people-to-people and mass audience-based communications instead of formal government-to-government negotiations. These are often accompanied by actions like cultural exchanges, educational programs, media campaigns, and even the adoption of social media platforms to reach foreign audiences and portray a country's image in a positive light. Through soft power, public diplomacy enables states to expand their influence, foster better bilateral ties, and reach for peace and shared understanding." The U.S. government's Fulbright Program is an example of a program that creates academic exchanges; China's Confucius Institutes, which promote Chinese language and culture in countries around the globe, are another, helping ensure that their citizens have a deeper understanding of China. Public diplomacy is vital to structuring international perception, building long-lasting goodwill, and reinforcing a nation's own foreign policy goals.

#### **b. Economic Diplomacy**

Economic diplomacy refers to the use of economic tools and strategies by states to further their national interests in the international sphere. This means using trade agreements, investments, foreign aid, sanctions, and other economic tools to influence other countries' policies and actions. Intellectual property rights, foreign direct investment, infrastructure development, technology transfer, and trade promotion fall under economic diplomacy, which is an essential element in enhancing a nation's economic development, maintaining markets for the supply of goods and services, and getting the most favorable terms of trade and investment in the international market. This includes negotiating trade deals, establishing

Economic partnerships and protecting local businesses overseas. A classic example of economic diplomacy is countries negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs), engaging with foreign direct investment (FDI) or regional economic organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). States can also use economic sanctions or economic incentives for political or security objectives, such as the use of sanctions against Iran or North Korea to stop them from proliferating nuclear weapons. Ultimately, economic diplomacy reflects a country's strength in the world, bringing nations closer together and creating the world's economic order.

#### **c. Multilateral Diplomacy**

Multilateral diplomacy refers to the actions of multiple states or other governing bodies where diplomacy is worthless. On this basis, the classic realist world of diplomacy conducts these things within, and already established tacit frames, within, for example, the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), or regional groups like the European Union (EU) and ASEAN. Through multilateral diplomacy, nations can coordinate, pool resources, and establish joint agreements on climate change, security, trade, and human rights. By cooperating through these platforms, states can combine their political, economic and military

capabilities to solve transnational problems, enhance global governance and ensure peace and stability. For instance, the Paris Agreement on climate change is an important example of how multilateral diplomacy can unify states to respond to pressing global challenges, as it unites almost 200 states in an accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**d. Cultural Diplomacy**

Cultural diplomacy involves using cultural exchanges, the arts, education, and other cultural endeavours to project a country's values, ideals, and national identity abroad. Citizens from nations around the world use this type of diplomacy to broaden mutual understanding, strengthen relationships, and promote peace and cooperation by showcasing a nation's history and the creativity of its people. Often, this takes the form of international art exhibitions, musical

performances, film screenings, language programs, and academic exchanges. Soft power employs peaceful means that can change the perception of the country around the world and promote a better image of the country and help build long-term relations based on values and culture, not only trading or political ties. The British Council and Goethe-Institute disseminate British and German culture abroad through cultural programs, whereas the Confucius Institutes promote Chinese language and culture internationally. Cultural diplomacy refers to the process of clashing actively with foreign publics of using cultural dialogue that is mutually beneficial and us-centred (non-coercive).

**e. Sanctions and Incentive Diplomacy**

Sanctions and incentives diplomacy is a foreign policy tool used by one country or group of countries to influence the behaviour of another country through the use of economic and political measures. Sanctions, however, are punitive measures like trade tariffs, asset freezes, or travel bans enforced to compel a state to change policies, particularly in highly politicised issues or cases that come under the categorisation of aggressive war or human rights violations or failure to comply with international accords. On the other hand, incentives diplomacy focuses on the provision of positive reinforcement, such as financial assistance, bilateral trade agreements, or political support, as a means of inducing a state to pursue certain behaviours or policies. Sanctions and incentives are often employed in conjunction as part of a broader strategy in which a country is offered a pathway to better relations if it conforms to international norms or undertakes agreements. An illustration of sanctions diplomacy can be seen in the UN sanctions on North Korea to dissuade it from developing nuclear weapons, while the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) is an example of incentives diplomacy, where economic sanctions were eased in exchange for a curb of Iran's nuclear program. This allows them to leverage to drive positive behavior & disincentivize negative behavior.

**f. Humanitarian Diplomacy**

Sanctions and incentives diplomacy is a foreign policy tool used by one country or

group of countries to influence the behaviour of another country through the use of economic and political measures. Sanctions, however, are punitive measures like trade tariffs, asset freezes, or travel bans enforced to compel a state to change policies, particularly in highly politicised issues or cases that come under the categorisation of aggressive war or human rights violations or failure to comply with international accords. On the other hand, incentives diplomacy focuses on the provision of positive reinforcement, such as financial assistance, bilateral trade agreements, or political support, as a means of inducing a state to pursue certain behaviours or policies. Sanctions and incentives are often employed in conjunction as part of a broader strategy in which a country is offered a pathway to better relations if it conforms to international norms or undertakes agreements. An illustration of sanctions diplomacy can be seen in the UN sanctions on North Korea to dissuade it from developing nuclear weapons, while the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) is an example of incentives diplomacy, where economic sanctions were eased in exchange for a curb on Iran's nuclear program. This allows them to leverage to drive positive behaviour & disincentivise negative behaviour.

#### **7.4. DIPLOMACY DURING THE COLD WAR**

One of the most significant examples of diplomacy during the Cold War was the negotiation of the world's first and only nuclear arms control agreements between the two Cold War superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Transitional paragraph: The Cold War, characterised by a struggle for power and ideological supremacy between the Western world (or Western liberal democracies) and the communist regimes of Eastern countries, manifested itself in a non-stop threat of military confrontation without either countries going to war directly in a full engagement with each other. This era saw a lot of diplomacy, with carefully planned talks, backchannel trust-building and alliances to avoid testing the threat of a hot war even in times of crisis like the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962). The Cold War ushered in summit diplomacy, which utilised high-level meetings between the leaders of the U.S. and The Soviet Union sought to de-escalate tensions and negotiate arms control agreements, such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). Such diplomacy was crucial for upholding a tenuous peace and avoiding a potential military confrontation between the two superpowers.

Managing proxy conflicts around the world also shaped diplomacy during the Cold War. The U.S. and the Soviet Union, both with eyes on extending their spheres of influence in regions like Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In these parts of the world, diplomacy was often simply about backing rival factions in civil wars, revolutions or coups, as both superpowers tried to spread their ideological wings. The U.S.-led effort against communism, exemplified by the Vietnam War (1955–1975), was mirrored by Soviet support of communist insurgencies in countries like Cuba and Angola. Diplomats from both sides played

key roles in brokering ceasefires, setting up peace talks, and trying to resolve disputes, but many of these efforts were undermined by the larger geopolitical fight between the two sides.

The Cold War also led to the institutionalisation of diplomacy via multilateral organisations. The United Nations (UN) emerged as a key battleground for Cold War diplomacy, with the U.S. and Soviet Union competing to win allies around the world. The UN Security Council, in which both superpowers possessed veto power, was often a governmental dead end but also a negotiating platform in times of upheaval like the Korean War and the Suez Crisis. Moreover, the NATO and the Warsaw Pact formal military alliances represented the opposing ideological camps. War took more than direct military action or strategy; it also took diplomacy between these alliances. Despite the defining feature of the Cold War era as being one of geopolitical tension and rivalry, the period can also be characterised by diplomacy that provided essential management of global conflicts, restricted confrontation, and formed the basis for international relations in the 20th century.

## **7.5. POST-COLD WAR DIPLOMACY**

One of the key factors that has made the status of diplomacy in the post-Cold War era is the drastic changes in the world geopolitical environment. Following the Cold War and the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, international relations transitioned from a bipolar system, in which the United States and the Soviet Union were superpower rivals, to a normalisation in which the United States was a more or less global superpower. It changed the nature and framework of diplomatic contacts, attaching great importance to multilateral diplomacy. Post-Cold War diplomacy focused on economic cooperation, trade liberalisation, and promoting democratic values. Some international relations of this time included the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other initiatives such as human rights, environmental protection and peacebuilding. Moreover, the rise in international organisations, including the UN and EU, has more drastically contributed to shaping diplomatic discourse and establishing avenues for global cooperation.

In turn, post-Cold War diplomacy itself grew more diverse and complex. The opening of borders and the increase of transnational concerns such as terrorism, climate change, and pandemics have given new layers to diplomacy. States, international organisations, NGOs and even private corporations are now creating diplomatic solutions for these issues. New diplomatic strategies addressing issues of economic interdependence, like international trade agreements and financial systems, have emerged, and these issues often force pluralism between national interests and cooperation with the global community. Additionally, states had discovered the potential benefits of soft power, such as using cultural and public diplomacy to enhance their public image and shape foreign public opinion. Paramount was the rise of digital technologies and social media which transformed

communications, allowing for quicker responses and information sharing at rates never seen before, which in some cases proved troublesome in settling international disputes and managing the diplomacy in the first place.

But at the same time as diplomacy broadened in inclusiveness and scope, the post-Cold War period also saw major attacks on both the effectiveness and integrity of conventional diplomatic practice. Non-state actors, including terrorist organizations and multinational companies, have increasingly challenged state control over global diplomatic agendas. The absence of pervasive regional conflicts (including in the Middle East) and the inability of some nations to forsake authoritarianism have pushed the boundaries of what can be accomplished in the realm of multilateral institutions and common commitments to long-standing peace among ethnicities and states. Moreover, new geopolitical rivalries- especially those between China and the United States- have generated new tensions and a return to competitive diplomacy, undermining the collaborative spirit that characterised the early post-Cold War period. In this way, whilst diplomacy is still a key instrument of foreign policy in the post-Cold War world, its application is constantly changing to the needs of modern international politics.

## **7.6. POST-9/11 DIPLOMACY**

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, shaped the course of international relations and changed the landscape of global security, leading to major shifts in global diplomacy. One of the areas where the attacks had a lasting impact was foreign policy, The priority for the United States, which was the principal target of the attacks, would change dramatically, with an emphasis now placed on counterterrorism efforts, national security and preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The use of diplomacy, which had once been used primarily to build cooperation and manage disputes, became more caught up in issues of military strategy and security.

The U.S. declared a “war on terror” that resulted in the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and diplomacy became dominated by the need to forge alliances in this global fight. Countries were pressured into siding with or against the U.S. on terrorism, security, and intelligence-sharing, which rewrote the books on traditional diplomacy.

There were also challenges to multilateral diplomacy in the post-9/11 era. Though international bodies such as the UN and NATO remained vehicles for diplomacy, their Utility declined in measure with the increased propensity for unilateral action by strong states, the U.S. in particular. The 2003 invasion of Iraq, which was carried out outside of the formal authorisation of the UN Security Council, revealed fissures between unilateral military action and multilateral diplomacy. But the world of coalitions continued to arise with the use of diplomacy, very much with Afghanistan and NATO allies aligned with the U.S. military.

Additionally, new types of diplomacy materialised, emphasising intelligence exchange, counterterrorism partnership, and the fight against extremist ideologies. This led to the formation of several international dialogues, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum, that would become crucial for coordinating diplomatic efforts to counter the changing face of terrorism.

Simultaneously, soft power diplomacy grew out of the change that came in the global sphere with the post-9/11 world. Between the lines, countries realised that tools like cultural exchange, education programs, and public diplomacy could help address the drivers of extremism and establish sustainable alliances worldwide.” Between international events, countries wanted to showcase their domestic affairs to improve their image, to combat negative stereotypes and to bridge cultures. For one, the U.S. stepped up its public diplomacy, emphasising values such as democracy and human rights in the Middle East and beyond, places otherwise devastated by terrorism. Prominent in this regard was the use of so-called humanitarian diplomacy as a means to address the human cost of conflict and promote peace. In this new world of diplomacy, the line between traditional and non-traditional diplomatic tools began to blur, thus requiring a more integrated and balanced approach to be effective in the post-9/11 world.

## **7.7. SUMMARY POINTS**

- From the philosophical perspective, diplomacy refers to the art and practice of how to handle human interactions on a global stage, inspired by the principles of peace, mutual understanding and collaboration. It represents the fragile equilibrium of power, diplomacy, and acknowledgement of disparate values and Priorities. It cannot be limited, philosophically, to transactional negotiations, because diplomacy is about what it means in ethical terms to represent national interests while respecting the dignity and sovereignty of others.
- Diplomacy, in this context, is an exercise in pragmatism, an attempt to reach practical results through discussions and compromise. It also displays aspects of moral philosophy, most notably in the context of justice, fairness, and conflict avoidance. At its core, diplomacy is a means of resolving conflict that seeks to avoid violent policy outcomes, a medium by which the world can conduct discourse that is intended to lead to constructive interaction while acknowledging the complexity of the international power politics.
- The plural nature of diplomatic functions lies in the other facets of ensuring international relations, peace and security, and opening mutual avenues of development for broader global cooperation. Diplomacy allows for communication and negotiation between states to help resolve conflict, make treaties and form alliances. It is a vehicle of communication also, where to reach out to or cudgel some states and people through persuasion and soft power, and to serve as an image of who we are or what national values and priorities are.

## 7.8. Self-Assessment Questions

1. What is the primary function of diplomacy in international relations?
2. What distinguishes diplomacy from other forms of international interaction, such as warfare or economic sanctions?
3. How does public diplomacy differ from traditional diplomacy in terms of influence and objectives?
4. What role did diplomacy play in the Cold War, and how did it contribute to preventing direct military conflict?
5. How does digital diplomacy and the use of social media influence traditional diplomatic channels?

## 7.9. Further Readings

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**Unit 08**

# **IDEOLOGIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

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## INTRODUCTION

Ideologies continue to play a significant role in shaping global politics and the international order in the 21st century. Despite the earlier predictions about the decline of ideologies after the Cold War, recent decades have shown a resurgence of ideological discourse—whether through cultural identity, religious revivalism, populism, or nationalism. This unit examines the competing narratives that influence global interactions, such as the theories of the “End of History” and the “Clash of Civilisations.” These ideological frameworks not only help explain current geopolitical tensions but also guide policymaking and international alignments. Understanding these ideologies is crucial for interpreting global challenges, alliances, and conflicts in a rapidly changing world.

The two theories of the 21st century, in particular, the "Clash of Civilisations" and the "End of History," are completely different views on the global political and cultural dynamics. Largely in contrast, Samuel Huntington theorised that wars in the post-Cold War world will be fought not over ideological lines or economic lines, but rather by cultural and civilizational fronts, and these civilisations will largely be the West versus the rest of the world, namely Islam and Confucianism. Huntington argues that these cultural divides will create new fault lines of conflict in global politics. The End of History thesis holds that as liberal democracy spread throughout the world or its recent transition, particularly after the crisis of the post-Cold War, marked an end point in mankind's ideological development and that the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government is now a permanent reality.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- Ideologies of 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Clash of Civilizations
- End of History
- Modern Views

## OBJECTIVES

The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- To understand the role of philosophy in the world
- To discuss the rise of new ideologies
- To explain the *End of History*
- To describe the Clash of Civilisations

## **8.1. WHAT ARE THE IDEOLOGIES OF THE NEW WORLD?**

The two major ideas reign supreme in the current international system: that of the political scientist Samuel P. Huntington, whose book titled “The Clash of Civilizations” argues that after the Cold War nations will battle chiefly based on culture, and that of the political scientist Francis Fukuyama, whose essay “The End of History?” suggests that the worldwide struggle for recognition is over, and the world is now headed toward liberal democracy. But for Huntington, post-Cold War conflicts, while often appearing ideological, are mainly cultural, and as such, he predicts that ethnic civilisations, drawn mainly but not exclusively by religion and culture, will rise against each other in a struggle for supremacy. Instead, Fukuyama argues, humanity's ideological evolution ended with the victory of Western-type liberal democracy, which represents the "end of history" as a battle of ideas. Although Huntington stresses cultural diversity as a possible fault line, Fukuyama anticipates global convergence on liberal principles. These two paradigms provide two perpendicular perspectives on the world system, and the challenges and hopes of the 21st century for solving problems such as globalisation, identity, or international utopia.

## **8.2. END OF HISTORY**

The "End of History" is a thesis formulated by political scientist Francis Fukuyama, stating that the ideological progression of mankind closed its circle in the form of the global victory of Western liberal democracy. From the immediate post-Cold War period, Fukuyama's thesis contended that the fall of communism and the global acceptance of market-based economies heralded the transcendence of democratic ideals over other big ideas like fascism and socialism. Working within the philosophical traditions of Hegel and Marx, Fukuyama argues that liberal democracy is the only regime capable of satisfying humanity's universal desire for freedom, equality and recognition. The argument that underpins the theory for a politically secure and economically. A Prosperous world has been subject to much debate, especially in the context of broader global changes and alternative governance spaces around the 21st century.

## **8.3. CORE THEMES OF END OF HISTORY**

### **a) The End of History Strikes Back**

Liberal democracy's triumph is at the heart of Fukuyama's "End of History" thesis, which posits that history, in its ideological sense, has concluded with liberal democracy as its victor. Liberal democracy will prevail in the future as a system that protects political freedoms, human rights, and free-market capitalism in contrast to other historical systems like fascism and communism. The Cold War ended and the Soviet Union collapsed — a watershed, as countries across the globe adopted

democracy and market economies. Fukuyama claims that liberal democracy not only satisfies humanity's economic interests, but also responds to the universal human need for recognition, dignity and equality. By winning, it is not only a political victory but also an ideological one for its belief that systems other than the one involving democracy cannot have a valid framework to work in.

#### **b) Need for Recognition**

The most important theme of the book is the unusual human need for recognition (thymus), one of the key factors in Fukuyama's "End of History" thesis. Building on Hegelian philosophy, Fukuyama posits that people have an innate desire to be treated with dignity and respect, and for their intrinsic value to be recognised. Liberal democracy, he argues, is uniquely capable of meeting this universal need by providing equality, freedom, and the prospect of political participation. Democracy fosters equality under the law, as opposed to the authoritarian or hierarchical systems that supersede or withhold recognition from most people, ensuring such recognition is only bestowed upon elite members of society. It establishes fulfilment in the thymus, not just as a moral uplift but also a practical one, as it develops stability in the state and Reduces conflicts based on social inequality and marginalisation. For Fukuyama, liberal democracy's capacity to meet humanity's fundamental desire for recognition explains its position as the highest ideological form.

#### **c) Economic Modernisation and Capitalism**

Economic modernization and capitalism are cornerstones of Fukuyama's "End of History" thesis, as they are seen as fundamental elements of the global victory of liberal democracy. Fukuyama contends that the emergence of market-oriented economies would promote political stability and freedom in such a way that liberal democracy would be the most effective and desirable form of government. – The profit motive; innovation and competition; the primary basis of individual agency and societal development; capitalism asserts itself and propels a society into economic growth and modernisation, thereby enabling the conditions that underpin the ideals of any democracy. "Societies, once they modernise, produce a middle class that demands political participation and political rights, which serves to reinforce democratic governance." Fukuyama also describes how globalisation, with its creation of globalised markets, increases the attractiveness of democracy by associating economic prosperity with freedom. At the same time, he sees the potential for problems if these challenges are not addressed, namely, economic inequality and widespread dissatisfaction in capitalist systems that could upset democracy's stability. Nonetheless, Fukuyama finds economic modernisation and capitalism integral to the emergence of a world in which liberal democracy is, and will be, the chief political paradigm.

#### **d) The End of Ideological War**

The idea of the "End of Ideological Conflict" is central to Fukuyama's overarching

"End of History" thesis, in which he argues that the ideological conflicts that shaped much of human history had come to a close with the worldwide victory of liberal democracy. Fukuyama claimed that the emergence of fascism in World War II, followed by the fall of communism in the late 20th century, meant the contest for systems of governance was finally concluded, leaving liberal democracy. Democracy is the overarching, global choice for a system of governance. This victory is not merely military or economic dominance but also the uncertainty of alternative ideologies to respond to the universal human longing for freedom, equality, and recognition. Fukuyama notes that this isn't to say the age of all disputes has ceased; instead, the larger argument over which structure of political organisation is superior is settled. Localised struggles and resistance to democracy will remain, but will be considered exceptions to a broader global consensus. This worldview imagines a world that is increasingly marked by political stability and ideological convergence, even if present-day challenges have spurred an analysis of the validity of Fukuyama's argument.

**e) Globalisation and Convergence of Ideas**

Fukuyama's "End of History" thesis points to globalization as a key factor driving the world toward the convergence of ideas, especially progression toward Western liberal democracy. As an idea, globalisation allows for (among other things) the spread of democratic principles (such as individual rights) and the spread of secular governance and free markets across the globe. Fukuyama contends that the interconnectedness of the world is hastening the acceptance of the liberal democracy model of government as the most effective and universal. As countries modernise and join the global economy, they pull toward political and economic systems that foster freedom, equality, and prosperity. This convergence responds to a universal demand for Western ideals, values, and Fukuyama deems to achieve the shared ambitions of man for recognition and self-determination. At the same time, he admits that there will be cultural and ideological resistance, even if other societies hold on to traditional or authoritarian values. Despite the rise of non-democratic regimes, the unifying force of globalization remains, stretching out the intellectual framework of democratic norms, underwriting Fukuyama's ideal of a unified world.

## **8.4. CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS**

The "Clash of Civilisations" hypothesis, articulated in a 1993 article and later elaborated in Huntington's 1996 book "The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order", provides an insightful analysis to address conflicts in a post-Cold War world. The future of conflicts, according to Huntington, will not be over ideologies or economic interests but over cultures and civilisations. civilisations — understood in ways including common history, everyday language,

shared religion and common culture — to be the outstanding units of identity in the world. The world will be flush with globalisation, preservation of identity, and different mindsets between the Western civilisations and those of the Islamic world, Confucianism and beyond — and these tensions will define the international framework. Huntington argued that culture and religion are increasingly significant factors in global politics, highlighting them with a statement: Culture will be the primary source of conflict in the post-Cold War world. This controversial theory lays the groundwork for a powerful lens into a world geopolitical vision that is at once and remains extremely interesting regarding the relationship between culture and globalisation today.

## **8.5. CORE THEMES OF THE CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS**

Samuel P. Huntington's theory, "Clash of Civilisations" lays a firm basis in all nations for understanding global disagreement within the Cold War struggle between the US and the Soviet Union. The idea of Huntington can be summarised on the following grounds.

### **a) Civilisations are the Fundamental Identity Units**

Samuel P. Huntington's "Clash of Civilisations" theory depicted civilisations as the dominant identity unit in the post-Cold War period of world politics. A civilisation is defined as the broadest level of cultural grouping of people, regardless of the people being united by language, history, religion, customs, and institutions. Civilizations, unlike countries or political or ideological forces, They are the most expansive kind of cultural identity, transcending politics. The Western, Islamic, Confucian, Hindu, Orthodox and other civilisations. According to Huntington, the end of ideological conflicts has given way to cultural identity based on civilization lines as the major determiner of international relations. This trend underscores the profound, persistent nature of cultural bonds, which can provoke clashes along civilizational fault lines where different values and worldviews collide. Huntington asserts that civilizations are the best units of analysis for understanding cultural human relationships, and such relationships should be the focus of managing and soothing the emerging tensions between civilizations in the world.

### **b) The Clash of Cultures and Civilizations**

According to Samuel P. Huntington's "Clash of Civilisations" thesis, cultural and civilisational factors are the fundamental forces influencing the modern world. According to Huntington, post-Cold War warfare would result in cultural and theological conflicts that cut across ethnic boundaries and split major civilisations, as opposed to the ideological outcomes of the Cold War. According to their definition, civilisations are mainly derived from shared values, beliefs, and historical experiences. These differences become ever more salient with the advance of globalisation and its tensions. An example is the conflict between the

West, which is associated with liberal democracy, secularism and individualism in the long historical process, and civilisations that value traditional values, religious authority, and communal identities, such as the Islamic civilization or Confucian civilization. These cultural fault lines become those that will cause the most serious divisions between civilizations, particularly the West and non-Western civilizations, according to Huntington. So the fight is much more than just a fight for political or economic superiority; it is a much deeper, more fundamental struggle for values, way of life, and preservation of unique cultures.

## **8.6. FAULT LINES BETWEEN CIVILISATIONS**

### **a) Fault lines**

Huntington's "Clash of Civilisations" theory says, "fault lines between civilizations" are the cultural, religious, and historical divisions present at the border of various civilisations. Huntington contends that these fault lines are where the major post-Cold War world conflicts will occur. The political and religious conflicts characteristic of the Middle East, for example, represent a major division between Western and Islamic civilisations. So too are the fault lines between Orthodox and Western civilisations, evidenced by the Eastern European conflict, and between Hindu and Muslim civilisations, represented by the India-Pakistan rift. These divisions are literal, not only with geography, but with deeply divergent cultural and ideological views (views on governance, human rights, religion, and more). Huntington argues that, as the world becomes a smaller and more interconnected place, these cultural divides will grow more pronounced and will result in clashes that are less about land or financial competition, and more about protecting intuitively-held social identities. The fault lines are thus the source of potential violence, as well as the field of competition for future geopolitical battles.

### **b) Rise of The West And The East Resistance**

Within the "Clash of Civilizations" framework, Huntington's keen focus lies on the Western resistance it faces from other civilizations. And in the post-Cold War era, he contends, Western civilization — its liberal democratic values, capitalist economic systems and secularism — has bludgeoned its way into becoming the global standard. A non-Western civilisation such as Confucianism, which emphasizes anti-Western and non-American ideals which are based on Enlightenment principles, globalisation turned into imposing foreign values on local nations that have a rich variety of local traditions, religious beliefs, and Cultural practices. This perception has contributed to considerable pushback, especially in Islamic, Confucian and Orthodox civilizations where a growing sense of cultural and religious preservation persists. Huntington posits that the Western urge to universalize places this civilizational model ever more at odds with the unique civilizational identities of such societies, which he believes effectively view the

spread of Western culture and politics as threatening. As a result, these civilisations and those they encounter in the West may differ, leading to resistance or outright opposition to Western ideology. One complex effect of a culture clash is the emergence of movements emphasising religious fundamentalism, nationalism, and anti-Western rhetoric as these societies strive to preserve their legacies and assert their sovereignty against perceived Western cultural imperialism.

**c) Cultural Restructuring and Alignments**

Cultural realignment and alliances in the context of Samuel P. Huntington's Clash of Civilisations explain that countries have aligned themselves along the lines of these cultural and civilizational identities, rather than traditional ideological or geographic factors. Huntington contends that with the world becoming more intermixed, nations will be pulled more and more toward civilisations that share values, beliefs and histories. This cultural compatibility results in the formation of strong bonds that put their cultural similarity ahead of other scales. Related civilisations, such as a shared Judeo-Christian heritage and commitment to liberal democracy in Western countries, will tend to gravitate towards the same side in opposition to those civilisations whose values stand in contrast, such as the Islamic or Confucian civilisations. By the same token, Muslim-majority nations may bond over common religious and cultural ties. Such realignments may also result in new geopolitical formations, where similarities in civilizational identity emerge as the foremost basis for diplomatic and military partnerships, which in turn may reshape international relations and impact the outcomes of global conflicts.

## 8.7. SUMMARY POINTS

- The two ideologies of the 21st century almost clash against each other - the Clash of Civilizations and the End of History. Samuel Huntington's Clash of Civilisations predicts that the post-Cold War world will not be shaped by ideology or economy but by cultural and civilizational conflicts between Western and non-Western civilisations, mainly muslim and Confucianism. These cultural divides, predicts Huntington, will become new fault lines of conflict within global politics.
- The spread of liberal democracy was definitively established, especially after the Cold War, as the ultimate and unconquered essence of mankind's ideological evolution and fate, and as such, it became the ultimate destination of mankind's political ideology, in contrast to Francis Fukuyama's End of History thesis.
- Fukuyama, with his assertion of the end of history, indicates that after this long sweep of history, we are moving towards the era of global convergence towards democracy, but Huntington, in contrast to those, presents a scenario where in the end, the primary sources of conflict will be the clash of civilisations and cultural and religious identities.
- Both the Clash of Civilizations and the End of History have had their influence, but have also been criticized for oversimplifying the complexities of the world; while the Clash of Civilizations picked up criticism over fostering divisive narratives, the End of History lacking attention as a result of growing nationalism and authoritarianism in the 21st century. However, the significance both ideologies undergone debate as global challenges continue to evolve.

## **8.8. Self-Assessment Questions**

1. How does Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" theory explain the rise of cultural and religious tensions in the post-Cold War world?
2. To what extent does the "Clash of Civilizations" theory account for the role of global capitalism and economic factors in international conflicts?
3. How does Huntington's theory align with or contradict other theories of international relations, such as realism or liberalism?
4. How does the "End of History" thesis explain the spread of liberal democracy in the post-Cold War era, and how does it account for the rise of authoritarian regimes?
5. Does Fukuyama's "End of History" argument still hold in light of recent political developments, such as the rise of populism and nationalism around the world?
6. How does the concept of the "End of History" interact with the concept of cultural and ideological diversity in global politics?

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**Unit 09**

# **THE CONCEPT OF WAR AND PEACE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This Unit concentrates on the conceptions of war and peace in the international system while highlighting their essential significances in the history of world politics. For centuries, war and peace have been central to human history, moulding civilisations and international systems. These are what International Relations (IR) is all about and form the backbone of how we understand state relations — as power, conflict and cooperation. War has long been the primary object of study in both political and cultural arenas; peace, in contrast, often exists only as the desired end state, a term for any time violence and conflicts are absent. Yet, both concepts are far more multifaceted than their surface definitions imply, having a myriad of philosophical, political and socio-cultural aspects. The development of the war concept in IR co-evolved with the international system. In its classical nature, war was regarded as a means of statecraft, utilised in pursuit of political goals or for resolving conflicts. Analysts like Carl von Clausewitz stressed the rationality of war, and he considered war to be a continuation of politics by other means. But as international norms and institutions evolved, the apprehension over war came to encompass its destabilising and destructive impact not only on states but also on societies and individuals. In this way, this Unit focused on the following points.

The following topics are covered in this unit:

- Evolution of War and Peace in the International System
- Types of Wars and Peace
- Core Assumptions of War and Peace
- Modern Forms of Wars and Peace Initiatives

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Unit's end will be able to achieve the following objectives:

- To understand the nature of war and peace in the world
- To discuss the forms of war and peace in the contemporary world
- To comprehend the modern forms of war and peace

## **WHAT IS WAR AND PEACE**

War is an organised conflict between two geopolitical entities, often undertaken by countries, states, or various factions and groups of a political nature, and is often conducted for political, economic, territorial, or ideological reasons. Its hallmark is the employment of military force and forceful means to gain dominance, settle conflicts, or shape the conditions of an adversary. War has historically been a defining characteristic of human interaction, affecting societies, borders, and governance structures. As many, such as philosopher and theorist Carl von Clausewitz, have stated and discussed, war is "the continuation of politics by other means" and thus is inherently tied to statecraft and strategy. War must now be defined into the 21st century and beyond as not only a traditional concept, but also one of a new and evil kind, encapsulating cyber warfare, guerrilla warfare, as well as hybrid warfare, reflecting technological advances and the challenges posed by dynamic geopolitical power. Yet in the struggle for power and survival in the international system, war continues to recur, raising the costs of human life and society.

Peace is a freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquillity, it is a state or period in which there is no war, or a state or condition conducive to peace of mind. It not only denotes the absence of war or violence but also the presence of positive elements such as equitable governance, respect for human rights, economic stability and social cohesion. Philosophically, peace has occupied a central place for thinkers. of Divergent traditions, from the idealism of Immanuel Kant's "perpetual peace" to pragmatic approaches to conflict resolution. In international relations, peace is sought through diplomacy, treaties, and the creation of international norms and institutions like the United Nations.

It may be divided into two categories: "positive peace," which promotes the creation of structures that foster connections and lessen the likelihood of conflict reoccurring, and "negative peace," which does not include violence. It is past time that we choose to preserve humanity and set out on the challenging task of constructing bridges, even as we do so with the belief that it is our shared duty as humans to mend the world's wounds and bring about the long-awaited peace.

### **9.1. INTERCONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE**

War and peace are the two sides of human interactions and the societal fibre. War is often understood through the lens of the breakdown of peace, as the quest for land, power, and ideology, where peace is understood as a solution to the devastation and disorder of war. The two do not exist in fixed positions — the transition from one to the other is influenced by diplomacy, negotiation and the balance of power. Historically, peace treaties have marked the end of wars — the

Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I, for example, or the Peace of Westphalia — but the terms of such treaties often determine whether something like peace will last or whether it may simply give rise to new wars. It illustrates the cyclical nature of violence, or the difference between "negative peace," in which violence is no longer manifest, and "positive peace," in which positive structures and dynamics reinforce against the possibility of that violence erupting anew.

This position frames war and peace, along with their interrelationship, within various theoretical perspectives (for example, realist, liberal Realists see war as an unavoidable element of human and state leaning, while liberals prioritise institutions and cooperation to keep the peace. On the other hand, critical theorists argue that the only way to reach sustainable peace is by addressing systemic inequalities. In real Life, war and peace are driven by international factors such as economic interdependence, cultural exchange, and technology. Preventing war and ensuring peace is an active and ongoing endeavour, demonstrating the inherent tension between the two.

## **9.2. EVOLUTION OF WAR AND PEACE**

The dimensionality of the concepts of war and peace has evolved as the international system evolved from a state-centric order with the Treaty of Westphalia to a world that is interconnected with multi-polar forces in the 21st century. From this most recent period of international affairs to WWI to WWII and back to the Napoleonic Wars, one can see how each new era brought about challenges and opportunities to talk about conflict and peace differently. Both concepts evolved throughout the history of the international system, which could be measured along the following lines.

### **a. Ancient and Classical Periods**

In earlier societies, warfare was largely tribal and localised, and fought over resources, territory and survival. Peace was an ephemeral construct that had to be negotiated via rituals, alliances, or ties of kinship. Early civilisations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley saw the emergence of organised warfare, with professional armies and fortifications. Some of the first agreements we have written record of are peace treaties — the Kadesh Treaty between Egypt and the Hittites, for example. In the classical period, empires such as those of Greece, Rome and Persia institutionalised the use of war as a means of growth and control. This order was continually interrupted by war, which ancient philosophers such as Thucydides viewed as an expression of innate emotion and power struggle, whereas peace was maintained through processes of hegemonic supremacy and imposed order, or temporarily through truces, as with the ancient Greek Olympic truces.

## **b. Medieval Period**

Conflict and Harmony throughout the Feudal Era and the Age of Religion (500–1500). The Crusades were started for religious and ideological reasons. Simultaneously, ecclesiastical powers, notably those of the Catholic Church, interceded in the resolution of conflicts and the imposition of peace via the "Peace of God" and "Truce of God" doctrines. Feudal systems centralised conflicts, and peace deals typically depended upon marriage alliances and the pledge of loyalty. In the world of Islam, diplomacy and the notion of "Dar al-Sulh" (actually, "a territory of peace") also contributed to the way that relations developed between Muslim and non-Muslim states. During this period, fundamental rules of warfare were codified, protecting civilians and civilian-owned property.

## **c. Early Modern Period**

The modern state system fundamentally altered the nature of both war and peace during the Renaissance and early modern periods. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and the resulting Treaty of Westphalia established a basis for state sovereignty and non-interference between states, elements of international relations that would come to shape the evolution of diplomacy and balance-of-power politics in the pursuit of peace. Technological development, like gunpowder and naval technologies, turned warfare into major conflicts. The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) ended the Thirty Years War in Europe, and the Congress of Vienna dealt with the Napoleonic issue.

## **d. Industrial and Modern Eras**

The industrial revolution brought mass conscription, industrial-scale killing and total war, culminating in the world wars of the 20th century. These wars illustrated the destructive capabilities of contemporary warfare, resulting in worldwide initiatives to formalise peace. The League of Nations, later superseded by the United Nations, was founded to ensure collective security and to avert future wars. The Cold War brought in an ideological dimension of war-peace, with the ideological conflict of capitalism and communism being the defining characteristic of the new world. Direct conflict between superpowers was averted, but proxy wars and the threat of nuclear annihilation defined this era. Peace efforts were instead directed towards arms control treaties, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and détente.

## **e. Contemporary Period**

War and peace in the 21st century have changed in ways mirrored and parallel to globalisation, technology, and new conflict forms. Conventional interstate wars are on the decline; intrastate wars, terrorism, and hybrid warfare are on the rise. Peacebuilding has grown to include the underlying conflict problems, including poverty, climate change, and governance.

Contemporary definitions of peace, including “positive peace,” refer to these peace-building objectives that go beyond the cessation of violence to encompass rebuilding, economic sustainability, restoration of human dignity, and justice. In this digital age, mechanisms of global peace are no longer just the responsibility of states; digital diplomacy, international organisations, and even non-state actors have crucial roles to play, juxtaposed with persistent challenges such as cyber warfare, economic competition, and geopolitical rivalries, adding stress on the peace models.

### **9.3. TYPES OF WAR**

- a)** Conventional War: It is when states use conventional military forces like armies, navies and air forces to engage in overt and widespread combat. The First and Second World Wars are landmarks.
- b)** Unconventional War: It includes unconventional approaches such as guerrilla warfare, insurgency, and terrorism. The Vietnam War and the so-called war on terror, including against groups such as ISIS, are among the examples.
- c)** Civil War: Intra-state war or civil war, involving factions and rebel groups, leading to a struggle against government forces within a single country. The American Civil War and the Syrian Civil War are appropriate examples.
- d)** Proxy War: A war where two or more great powers fight for influence in a third-world nation but do not engage directly with one another. Key examples include the Korean War and the Vietnam War during the Cold War.
- e)** Asymmetric War: When opposing forces have significantly different military capabilities or strategies, this is known as "weak-versus-weak" (e.g., state versus underground). The War on Terror in Afghanistan is one such instance.
- f)** Cold War: A sustained condition of hostility and competition between states based on indirect tools of the proxy war could be called the Cold War. The decades-long period of US-Soviet indirect fight for global hegemony was the case of the Cold War.
- g)** Hybrid War: Merges conventional warfare with cyber attacks, misinformation campaigns and economic warfare. For example, Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, and India-Pakistan contemporary conflict.
- h)** Total War: A war of total national mobilization, often fought against civilian infrastructure and economies as much as against the military, such as in World Wars I and II.
- i)** Limited War: A limited war is, avoiding full mobilization or nuclear use, and fight for the defined strategic purposes. There are a number of cases in which the states were involved in the limited wars.
- j)** Religious War: Religious Conflicts or armed conflicts based on ideological confrontations are generally called religious wars. It sometimes turns into sectarian clashes.

#### **9.4. TYPES OF PEACE**

- a) Negative Peace: The impossibility of refraining from violence and sanctioning war while not addressing the actual causes of conflict
- b) Positive Peace: Sustainable state of peace based on the treatment of root causes of conflict, including injustice and inequality.
- c) Cold Peace: How fragile a peace where the guns have fallen silent, but not the mistrust, tensions. It is the conceptual framework of Cold Peace.
- d) Stable Peace: A lasting peace in which former enemies cultivate trust and cooperation and decide to give up their longstanding disagreements on certain points is called a stable peace.
- e) Armed Peace: A peace imposed by the threat of force or military muscle to deter aggression.
- f) Local Peace: Peace is accomplished in a particular community or area through neighbourhood activity.
- g) Global Peace: The hope for international peace through collective global efforts and collaboration.
- h) Environmental Peace: Peace through the resolution of natural resource-related disputes and the promotion of sustainability
- i) Religious Peace: Negotiating and finding a compromise for differences to avoid conflicts caused by religion.
- j) Economic Peace: Peace based on economic interdependence, cooperation and shared prosperity.
- k) Cultural Peace: Peace is constructed by advancing communication and exchange among different cultures.
- l) Inner Peace: A copacetic state of personal mental and emotional well-being contributing to societal harmony.

#### **9.5. WAR AND PEACE IN THE DIGITAL WORLD**

War and peace are no longer just what they were but something shaped and transformed by technology and cyberspace in the digital world. Digital warfare includes cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and hacking operations, rubbing down the barriers between combat and peacetime actions. Nation-states, non-state actors and individuals utilize the internet as a battleground, attacking critical infrastructure, economies and public sentiment. Moreover, the hybrid warfare in cyberspace combines traditional military approaches with cyber tactics to advance strategic objectives. On the other hand, digital tools have also emerged as effective vehicles for peacemaking. With social media platforms, virtual diplomacy, and online collaboration, dialogue and the resolution of conflicts can potentially take place, as well as the global mobilisation of humanitarian efforts. However, those very technologies

that promote interconnectedness also pose risks, such as the proliferation of disinformation, cyber espionage and digital surveillance that may erode confidence and stability. As for the governance level, the concepts of war and peace originating from the digital world offer a two-edged sword that will necessitate creative governance approaches and ethical framing to surmount its intricacies.

## **9.6. WAR AND PEACE IN THE NUCLEAR WORLD**

Nuclear arms have transformed the nature of war and peace on an international level. During the Cold War, mutually assured destruction (MAD) kept the direct fights between nuclear superpowers, as nuclear war was an unacceptable option given its catastrophic consequences. Yet nuclear weapons have also triggered an arms race and allowed access to nuclear technology to regional powers like India, Pakistan and North Korea, which created new security dilemmas.

This has become necessary because to nuclear deterrence, which has been successful in averting global conflict. However, it has also created new opportunities for risk and escalation, such as unintentional conflicts, nuclear terrorism, and similar situations. Since then, it's been the goal of international efforts to limit nuclear proliferation — with treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to reduce the risk of nuclear war — but the threat remains and requires ongoing management through diplomacy to assure global security in this potential new era of nuclear conflict.

## **9.7. ROLE OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN THE WORLD**

Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) are of paramount importance in the modern-day world, for they enhance trust and create conditions to avoid conflict, particularly in the case of antagonistic states. With growing military tensions and major geopolitical rivalries that can build into threats to peace, confidence-building measures provide tools to promote transparency, communications and cooperation. Such measures, which can entail arms control agreements, co-located military exercises, and open lines of communication, prevent misunderstandings and miscalculations that have the potential to trigger war. CBMs fulfil vital roles in such regions where nations have had historical disputes in the past, or still have conflicting territorial claims, and their primary aim is the promotion of stability, confidence building and reassurance for the states regarding the future intentions of each other, and such the constructs are particularly essential in parts of the world like South Asia and the Korean Peninsula.

CBMs have recently transitioned to the digital world to manage new risks, including cyber warfare, disinformation, and the race for technological superiority.

States are integrating cyber norms and agreements within their CBM frameworks to prevent the costs of war in the digital arena and increase cyber transparency. Moreover, confidence-building measures are crucial for tackling non-traditional security challenges like climate change and transnational terrorism that require international collaboration and depend on trust. As global interdependence deepens, CBMs provide a way for states to manage their differences peacefully while at the same time addressing mutual challenges. In a rapidly changing international landscape, the cooperative mechanism in these metrics helps set proportional limits on potential actions and promotes a positive spiral of cooperation by encouraging dialogue and building trust

## **9.9 SUMMARY POINTS**

- The conceptions of war and peace play an instrumental role in shaping world politics, including international relations, politics of power dynamics and global governance. Wars act as a double-edged sword; while they are destructive, on the other hand they are often considered the reinstatement of a society. A model of different and effective governing system emerges from wars. After wars, we create international institutions — the United Nations was a product of World War II — to prevent international conflict and build diplomacy. The peace, however, encourages stability, cooperation and international agreements and alliances, all of which lead to increased trade, enhanced security and better diplomatic relations.
- War and peace have also reframed global power dynamics, such as the Cold War, where the threat of nuclear conflict informed political and diplomatic strategies. While economic development and conflict resolution in part of the world provide long-term peace and stability, war often creates humanitarian crises, creates instability that brings down governments and results in migrations. In summary, war and peace remain powerful drivers of the direction of world politics, influencing issues ranging from global alliances to the world economy.
- The evolution of war and peace in the modern world is closely related to a struggle between the changes brought about by war, combined with political factors specific to each country. The advent of nuclear weapons after World War II has changed the calculus of warfare by making the prospects of full war between great powers less likely for fear of mutual annihilation. This carried over into a nuclear-powered model of peace, where the avoidance of war was predicated on the balance of power, and nothing underscores that balance quite like the never-ending threat of mutually assured destruction that characterized the Cold War. Nonetheless, there was a rise in regional conflicts, fueled by ethnic, religious, or political strife, that ensued in the form of proxy wars, civil wars, and interventions in various parts of the world.

## 9.10 Self-Assessment Questions

1. How has the concept of war evolved in the modern era, particularly with the advent of cyber warfare and hybrid conflicts?
2. How do historical conflicts, such as the Indo-Pakistani wars, influence contemporary diplomatic relations in South Asia?
3. How have nuclear weapons changed the nature of diplomacy and the balance of power in international relations?
4. What are the primary challenges faced by diplomats when attempting to negotiate peace during an active conflict?
5. What is the significance of confidence-building measures (CBMs) in improving diplomatic relations between adversarial states?
6. How do non-state actors, such as terrorist organisations or multinational corporations, influence war and diplomacy in the modern world?
7. What are the long-term consequences of war for international diplomacy and state-to-state relations?
8. What are the key factors that determine the success or failure of peace talks during an ongoing war?

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