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International Relations

Lecture #01

Topic: Introduction to IR

- Definition of IR
- Scope of IR
- Nature of IR

International Relations

Meaning and Definitions of IR

Jeremy Bentham was the first person to use the word ‘international’, in the later 18th century, with regards to defining the relations between nation-states.

Restricted definition: IR confines its focus to official relations and excludes relations other than the official from the purview of international relations.

Broader view: IR may refer to all forms of interactions between members of separate societies, whether government sponsored or not.

Definitions of IR

- Ola Joseph: International Relations is all sort of interaction whether it by war or diplomacy.
- Karl Wolfgang: International Relation is an art and science of survival of humankind.
 - If civilization is killed in near future, it will not be killed by famine or plague but by foreign policy of civilizations.

Definitions of IR

Examples:

- 9 million Jews killed by Hitler in WW2
- 40 million people killed in total.
- Yugoslavia Crisis
- Vietnam War
- Afghan War

Pivot of IR

- IR also focuses on the instruments available for promotion of **national interest**, with foreign policies of major powers and of smaller (strategic) powers and considers other historical ingredients as a background for events affecting the current sphere of International Relations.
- Tools to National Interest:
 - Diplomacy
 - War
 - Alliances

International Politics vs. International Relations

- IR is wider in scope than international politics.
- International politics focuses on various styles of politics:
 - The politics of violence
 - The politics of persuasion
 - Hierarchical policies
 - Pluralistic politics.

International Politics vs. International Relations

- Hans J. Morgenthau:
 - The core of international Relation is International Politics.
 - As IR is wider in scope so it focus on:
 - Social Interaction
 - Political Relations
 - Economics Relations
 - Cultural Cooperation

- International politics among nations is the struggle for power.

International Politics vs. International Relations

- Harold and Margaret Spout:
 - International Relation includes all human behaviour on one side of national boundary affecting the human behaviour on the other side of boundary.
 - However, IP deals with conflicts and cooperation at political level.
 - Joe Biden Vs Imran Khan – Telephone Call Issue
 - Imran Khan Vs Muhammad Bin Salman – Driving car for each other
 - Imran Khan Vs. Benjamin Netanyahu – No standup welcome for Netanyahu

Importance of International Relations

- The World has become a global village due to the technological innovations.
- The event in one part of the world has an immediate effect on the other part.
 - Example: Withdrawal of US Troops from Afghanistan
 - Example: Iran Nuclear Deal

All the states are now under compulsion to interact with each other.

Importance of International Relations

- International Relations existed since long among different states like Egypt, Greece, , and China but they were based on morality.
- The earlier relations were among the neighbours and they may precisely be called “regional relations.”
- The improvements in the means communications and the industrial revolution further brought the states together.
- These relations led to the study of diplomacy and law.
- Now the states are inter-wined together.

Nature and Scope of International Relations

- The question "What is the scope of IR as a body of knowledge?" is different from the question "What is the proper scope of an educational program in the subject?"
 - The kind of a program to be offered by any particular institution should depend primarily on whether its aim is to offer IR as a cultural subject, or to train professionals, or both.
 - As a cultural subject, the aim should not be to turn out skilled decision-makers but to introduce the students to the general field and the methods available for analyzing its problems.

Nature and Scope of International Relations

- Who will decide the nature of IR? [Answer: Scope].
- Why do we study scope: To answer hotly debated question whether IR is a separate discipline or a part of other existing one.

Scope of International Relations

- The word "scope" is a dangerously ambiguous one. It suggests that the subject matter under inquiry has clearly discernible limits.
- All one has to do in defining its scope is to trace out these boundaries in much the manner of a surveyor marking out the bounds of a piece of real property.
- Contrarily, a field of knowledge does not possess a fixed extension in space.
- But is a constantly changing focus of data and methods that happen at the moment to be useful in answering an identifiable set of questions.

Scope of International Relations

- The boundaries that supposedly divide one field of knowledge from another are not fixed walls.
- But the foci of interest are constantly shifting and these divisions tend to change with them.
- Although more slowly because mental habits alter slowly and the vested interests of the intellectual world are as resistant to change as those of the social world.

Scope of International Relations

- Diplomatic Relations
- Wars
- Trade Relations
- Agreements and Alliances
- Cultural Exchanges
- State visits of dignitaries
- Participation in International Organizations
- State Sovereignty
- Nuclear Proliferation

Nature of IR: Interdisciplinary

- IR contains an essential core of five subjects:
 - International politics
 - International economics
 - International law and organization
 - Diplomatic history
 - Political geography.

Nature of IR: Interdisciplinary

- In addition, it calls for some knowledge of the socio-psychological subjects—
 - Sociology
 - Anthropology
 - Psychology and social psychology,
 - Ethics.

Note: The IR analyst must acquire enough knowledge of the core subjects to enable him to move freely across the boundaries that separate them and to be able to think effectively about whole questions.

Ask as many questions as you can.