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International Relations

Lecture # 05

Topics:

- Constructivism
- Idealism
- Marxism
- Post-Modernism

constructivism

copy n. alter psychology observer world assumption pos empiricism theory client role investigate approach habit theory mental theorize disease intended priorly approach evolution confronting world assumption pos empiricism theory client role investigate approach intervening mental theorize disease intended priorly approach motor shared being contrast goal interaction premise produces assertion construct goal interaction premise concerned worldview constructive article contents problems grown implicit frame experience grounded behaviour therapist conceived responding epistemology understanding primarily argued structures encounter ultimately postulate knowing explore therapeutic facilitate gather standard knowledge schools concerns practice system knowledge translate epistemological critique human system connected interactively

Constructivism

- Definition: A fundamental principle of Constructivist Social Theory is that people/ states act towards actors/ objects/ things on the basis of the meanings that the objects have for them.

Rameez- Son

Brother

Husband

Friend

Teacher

Enemy

Agent-Structure Debate

- Agents- States and Non-state actors
- Structure: Anarchy, Unipolar, Bipolar, Multipolar
- Neo-Realist determines the behavior of states on the premise of distribution of capabilities but Constructivism defines behaviors of states on the basis of shared knowledge, identity formation, and value considerations.

Constructivism- Shared Knowledge



the bigger picture: constructivism as social theory



- **example.** we all know that this is a gun, but what does this physical entity **represent or mean**?

does it represent: danger or safety?
repression or freedom? fun or destruction?
power or impotency? order or chaos?

key point. as a physical object, a gun's "meaning" is dependent on our interpretation

Constructivism

- Note: If Pakistan and India ceases to think that there is enmity, so enmity will come to an end.
- States:
 - Sovereign
 - Imperial
 - Regional Hegemon
 - Global Hegemon
 - Friendly Nation

Constructivism

- Peter Berg says identity with its appropriate attachment of psychological reality is always an identity within a specific and socially constructed world.
- Example:
 - Pakistan Vs. China
 - Pakistan Vs. India
 - Pakistan Vs. KSA
 - Pakistan Vs. USA
 - USA Vs. Cuba
 - USA Vs. Canada

Constructivism

- Constructivist oppose the idea of neo-realists and neo-liberalists by stating that anarchy, self help, and power politics are created due to process, not structures.
- Note:
 - Kenneth Waltz: BoP determines state action
 - Stephen Walt: BoT determines state actions and threats are socially constructed.

1990s: Constructivism

- Systemic Constructivism
 - Everything that exists or occurs within domestic political realm is ignored.
 - How states relates to one another in the external, international domain?
- Unit-Level Constructivism
 - Inverse of systemic constructivism
 - Concentrate on unit-level domestic social and legal norms and identities and interests of states.

1990s: Constructivism

- Peter Katzenstein's writings on the national security policies of Germany and Japan
- Setting out to explain why two states, with common experiences of
 - military defeat,
 - foreign occupation,
 - economic development,
 - transition from authoritarianism to democracy
 - nascent great power status
 - have adopted very different internal and external national security policies

Holistic Constructivism

- Combination of both Systemic and Unit-Level Constructivism
- To accommodate the entire range of factors conditioning the identities and interests of states that treats the domestic and the international perspectives as two faces of a single social and political order.

Model: Gorbachev's New Thinking Policy

- Case: How states might transform a competitive security system into a cooperative one?
- Gorbachev's New Thinking Policy is one of such examples.
- **1. Breakdown of identities**
 - In Soviet, identity commitment centered on Leninist theory of Imperialism
 - Relations between Capitalists and Socialists are inherently conflictual.

Model: Gorbachev's New Thinking Policy

- **2. Denaturalization**

- Critically examines the old ideas about self and other by extension of structures by which such ideas have been sustained.
- Soviet rejected the idea of inherent conflict of interest between Socialist and Capitalist.

- **3. New Practices**

- States uses the practice of alter-casting
 - A technique in which Ego uses tactics of self-representation and stage management to frame alter's definition.

Model: Gorbachev's New Thinking Policy

- The logic of alter-casting flow directly from the Mirror Theory of Identity Formation (MTIF).
- MTIF: Alter's identity is the reflection of Ego's practices.
- **4. Unilateral Initiatives**
 - Ego takes unilateral initiatives and self-binding commitment that another state is faced with an offer it cannot refuse.

Model: Gorbachev's New Thinking Policy

- Gorbachev tried to do this by withdrawing from Afghanistan and Eastern Europe and called for **defensive defense**.
- USA was morally bound to give aid and comfort to USST.

Glossary

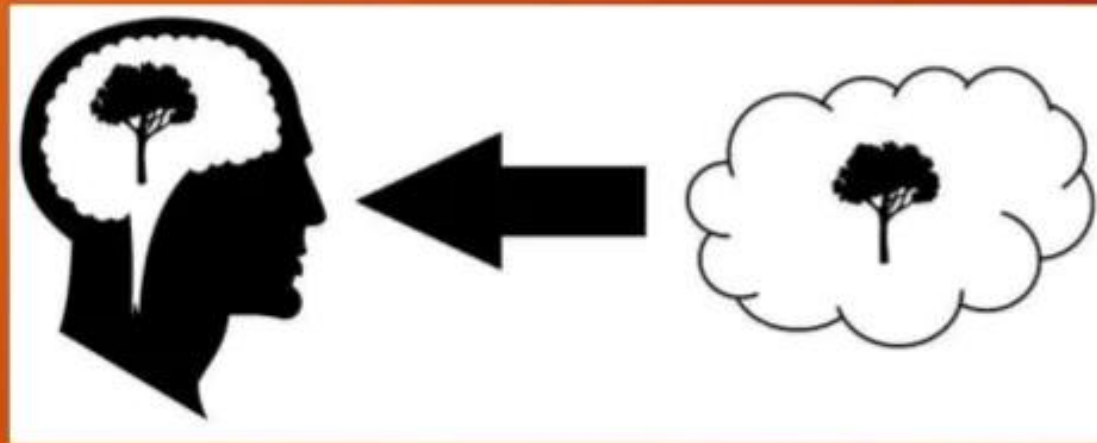
- Cooperative Security
- Competitive Security
- Individualistic Security
- Defensive Defense
- Alter-casting - Alter & Ego

Readings

- Globalization of World Politics
- Anarchy is What States Make of It- The Social Construction of Power Politics –
By Alexander Wendt
- Theories of International Relations by Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater.



Idealism



Idealism

- Idealism is a term applied to any idea, goal, or practice considered to be impractical.
- Eradicating nuclear weapons
- Open for secret diplomacy
- Entrusting international security to the UN
- Creating an African Union on the model of the EU

Idealism

- Nature: Optimistic doctrine
- Goals:
 - To transcend the international anarchy
 - To create a more cosmopolitan and harmonious world order
 - To empower world public opinion
- Arms manufacturers and merchants have frequently been targets of their wrath.

Idealism

- Tools:
 - Spreading education and democracy
 - Increasing democratic control of foreign policy
 - Universal bodies i.e. United Nations
- Dominant Period: Inter-war period (1919-1939)

Idealism

- Idealists emphasize the importance of universal bodies such as the League and the UN in galvanizing and organizing world public opinion.
- Through such means it will be possible to eliminate crude power from international relations, substituting research, reason and discussion in place of national armies and navies

Idealism

- While accepting that the different peoples exhibit different codes of behavior, cultural norms, values, habits and tastes, they contend that human beings are fundamentally uniform.
- Regardless of ethnic, social, cultural and religious background, all human beings desire the same things in terms of security, welfare, recognition and respect.

Criticism

- E.H. Carr – Fierce Critic of Idealists
 - Idealists have underestimated the role of power in international politics and overestimated the role of law, morality and public opinion.
 - So, the reason and discussion could not take the place of armies and navies.
 - Power is a decisive factor in every political situation.

Criticism

- Realists today often criticize the intellectual descendants of inter-war idealists—those advocating:
 - Global governance
 - Cosmopolitan democracy
 - Greater power for the UN

Criticism

- Idealists ignore:
 - The power and self-interestedness of the independent nation state
 - The reign of instrumental reason in international politics T
 - The emotional appeal of national sovereignty

Readings

- <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199743292/obo-9780199743292-0089.xml>
- <https://www.slideshare.net/RafidAL21/idealism-57922155>



Marxism

- Marxism is the only theoretical perspective in IR that is named after a person- the philosopher Karl Marx (1818–1883).
- Most of Marx's (co-author Friedrich Engels') work is not primarily concerned with the formation of states or even the interactions between them.

Marxism

- The political and economic philosophy in which a concept of class struggle plays a pivotal role in understanding a society's allegedly inevitable development from bourgeois oppression under capitalism to a socialist and ultimately classless society.
- Note: National Interest Vs. Class Interest

Marxism

- What connected their interests to IR was the industrial revolution.
- He, with Engels, developed a revolutionary approach and outlined a set of concepts that transcended national differences while also providing practical advice on how to build a transnational movement of people.
- Workers from factories across the world – the *proletariat* – were to organize themselves into a politically revolutionary movement to counter the exploitative and unequal effects of capitalism, which were accelerated and expanded by the industrial revolution.

The basics of Marxism

- Marxist concepts are all connected by the common goal to contribute to what they perceive as the greater good of humankind and its environment.
- Capitalism should be abandoned for equitable system.

Foundation of Marxism

- Philosophical Foundation:
 - Class Struggle
 - Proletariat Internationalism
 - Anti-Imperialism
 - Self-Determination

Neo-Marxism

- Marxism: Based on economic determinism.
- Neo-Marxism: Based on the broader consideration of social and intellectual influences that perpetuate oppression of the working class.

Criticism

- Materialist Approach
 - Equality in terms of wealth is against the law on nature.
- Sir Karl Popper
 - Marxism is not a theory to be tested but it is faith.
- Exaggerates importance of economic relationship

Home Work

- Dependency Theory
 - **Dependency theory** is the notion that resources flow from a "periphery" of poor and underdeveloped states to a "core" of wealthy states, enriching the latter at the expense of the former.
- World System Theory
 - "World-system" refers to the inter-regional and transnational division of labor, which divides the world into core countries, semi-periphery countries, and the periphery countries.

Home Work

- Socialism
- Communism

Home Work

- Traditional Approach
- Systemic Approach
- Scientific Approach
- Empirical Approach
- Behavioral Approach
- Post-Behavioral Approach

Glossary

- Core Countries
- Semi-periphery countries
- Periphery countries
- Bourgeois
- Proletariat

Readings

- <https://www.history.com/news/socialism-communism-differences>
- <https://slideplayer.com/slide/3623695/>
- <https://www.slideshare.net/RameezAhmed/marxism-by-rameez-ahmed>
- <https://www.slideshare.net/satyavrat1994/marxist-theory-29308212>
- <https://www.e-ir.info/2018/02/25/introducing-marxism-in-international-relations-theory/>



Post-Modernism

Central Idea: There is no objective reality but a multiplicity of experiences and perspectives that defy easy categorization.

Post-Modernism: Realism can not justify its claims that states are central actors in IR.

States are not tangible entities but figment of imagination.

Stories being told about the actions and policies of states are just stories.

Post-Modernism

- Example: Break-up of USSR
- Before disintegration, USSR was treated as single state with a single set of objective interests.
- Realists were amazed when it broke up into 15 states with different objective interests.
- **Analysis:** Who can predict that these 15 states will not break-up further or merge to gather?

Objective Vs. Subjective Reality

- No Objectivity
- No absolute truth- Everything is relative.
- No Binary Division
- No Determinism
- No Reductionism
- No Essentialism
- Different experiences construct different realities.

Post-Modernism

Winston Churchill

- Britain has no constant friends, no constant enemies, but constant interests.

Example: Russia joined allies in war against Germany in WW-2.

Criticism

- Ultimate Skepticism
- Directionless
- No concerned with empirical evidence

Proponents

- Jacques Derrida
- Michel Foucault
- Jean Baudrillard
- Gilles Deleuze

Readings

- <https://www.slideshare.net/jbradfo4/theory-postmodernism>
- <https://www.slideshare.net/JeremiahGranden/postmodernism-in-ir-theory-literature>
- <https://www.e-ir.info/2008/01/28/how-do-postmodernists-analyse-international-relations/>
- <https://oxfordre.com/internationalstudies/internationalstudies/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.001.0001/acrefore-9780190846626-e-102>

