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# International Policy

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## First section; Introduction & important concepts

### Introduction

The evolution (development) of international relations can be traced back to thousands of years ago; Barry Buzan and Richard Little, for example, consider the interaction of ancient Sumerian city-states, starting in 3,500 BC, as the first fully-fledged international system.

Before the 20th century this concept was restricted to Europe, even so there were some international subsystems from which they were formed from other more complex ones:

- ❖ Greece can be cited as a cultural center,
- ❖ Then Rome (which is at the base of international law), at which time a rift occurs:
- ❖ The Byzantine empire that lasted until 1453, the western empire assumed Christianity (313) and another entity emerged
- ❖ Christian Europe. And a little later the irruption also pushed by a religious force: Islam.

Therefore we have 3 subsystems:

- Byzantium
- Christian Europe
- Islam

Advancing towards the 16th century, we find the appearance of the national states with their own organizations within each country this coincides (overlaps) with the European expansion into the new world as a result of the strengthening of these states.

We come to the year 1648 "the great mutation" with the Westphalian peace sign. It is at this moment when the disappearance of the confessional of the states that develop by itself is recognized.

Now international society is emerging as a group of states on an equal footing with different organizations (republics, monarchies ...) but with legal equality. Here the foundations of the European balance are laid (a utopia, since the conflicts between countries continued).

International Policy generally includes: International relations (IR) or international affairs (IA) commonly also referred to as international studies (IS), global studies (GS), or global affairs (GA).

We can say International Policy is the study of interconnectedness of politics, economics and law on a global level.

## **Important concepts**

### **Sovereign state**

In international law is a political entity that is represented by one centralized government that has sovereignty over a geographic area. International law defines sovereign states as having a permanent population, defined territory, one government and the capacity to enter into relations with other sovereign states. It is also normally understood that a sovereign state is neither dependent on nor subjected to any other power or state

### **Foreign policy**

A state's foreign policy is its objectives and activities in relation to its interactions with other states. The Encyclopedia Britannica notes that a country's foreign policy may be influenced by "domestic considerations, the policies or behavior of other states, or plans to advance specific geopolitical designs

George Modelski, defines it as "the system of activities evolved by communities for changing the behavior of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the international environment. Foreign policy must throw light on the ways states attempt to change, and succeed in changing the behavior of other states."

According to Joseph Frankel, "foreign policy consists of decisions and actions, which involves to some appreciable extent relations between one state and others"

## **International law**

International law, also called public international law or law of nations, the body of legal rules, norms, and standards that apply between sovereign states and other entities that are legally recognized as international actors. The term was coined by the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832).

The international law is generally defined as a set of rules that regulate relations between states. Cali defined it as “a system of rules created deliberately and explicitly by states. Where states have expressly willed to be bound by the rules”

## **International organizations**

Currently, there are over 68,000 International Organizations (both active and inactive) in the world. Many International Organizations (IOs) play an enormous role in the current international system. It is hard to imagine how world affairs would operate without international bodies such as the United Nations (UN) and its affiliates, international financial institutions, such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

Nevertheless, scholars of international relations still disagree about the role IOs play in the foreign policies of states. The realist approach in the international politics has generally had less confidence in the efficacy of international organizations. He\ argue, for example that the United Nations and Omost other international bodies have no way to implement their decisions and that nation states have all the real power in the international system.

## **Alliance**

Alliance formulation is considered to be one of the most curious aspects of international relations. Alliance formation is considered as a strategy that states use in the formulation and implementation of their foreign policies.

Alliance, in international relations, is a formal agreement between two or more states for mutual support in case of war. Contemporary alliances provide for combined action on the part of two or more independent states and are generally defensive in nature, obligating allies to join forces if one or more of them is attacked by another state or coalition. Although alliances may be informal, they are typically formalized by a treaty of alliance, the most critical clauses of which are those that define the *casus foederis*, or the circumstances under which the treaty obligates an ally to aid a fellow member.

## **International Society**

The idea of international society relies on the assumption of the “societal” nature of inter-state relations. This concept is usually taken to mean that order in international politics is maintained due to social bonds between states.

Hedley Bull authored the most concise definition, according to which international society. “exists when a group of states, conscious of certain common interests and common values, form a society in the sense that they conceive themselves to be bound by a common set of rules in their relations with one another, and share in the working of common institutions”.

Its simplest exposition, international society is one of the ways of characterizing relations between states both historically and in the present. The idea relies heavily on a particular historical narrative used to account for the emergence of the European interstate system

### **Globalization**

Globalization is a phenomenon involving the integration of economies, cultures, governmental policies, and political movements around the world. Internationalization is nothing new. Many of the large empires and religious movements represented forms of globalization. Trade and investment between countries have promoted interdependence of the world's economies for centuries. What is now called globalization, however, represents an exponential acceleration of the integration process.

### **Diplomacy**

Diplomacy is the practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of states or groups, so as to influence the decisions and conduct of foreign governments through dialogue, negotiation, and other nonviolent means. Diplomacy usually refers to international relations carried out through the intercession of professional diplomats with regard to a full range of topical issues.

Diplomacy is the main instrument of foreign policy, which represents the broader goals and strategies that guide a state's interactions with the rest of the world. International treaties, agreements, alliances, and other manifestations of foreign policy are usually the result of diplomatic negotiations and processes. Diplomats may also help shape a state's foreign policy by advising government officials.

## **Actors in world politics**

Actors in world politics, states and non-state actors, according to Professor Ryo Osiba of Hitotsubashi University, can be defined as the entities which have the following three features: (a) They should have the autonomous capacity to determine their own purposes and interests; (b) They should also have the capability to mobilize human and material resources to achieve these purposes and interests; (c) Their actions should be significant enough to influence the state-to-state relations or the behavior of other non-state actors in the global system.

States remain the main actors in world affairs and today there are less than 200 states (national governments) in the global system. On the other hand, non-state actors are increasingly the focus of analysis among scholars as territoriality, the defining feature of the Westphalian state, has been steadily diminishing in relation to non-territorial, non-state actors.

State is a politically organized body of people at given territory and characterized by public authority and legal use of violence. State should: a) maintain monopoly in (legal) use of force at their territory. B) Be recognized as sovereign state by other states. C) Set up a public and legal government.

Why state play essential role in international system?

- Define structure of the international system.
- Have monopoly to use force within their sovereign territory.
- Are able to consolidate much more financial, military and other resources than any other actor.

- Possess different aspects of power, not just economic or social.
- Create legal space for non-state actors and international organization to function, and can eliminate them, if they want.
- Any individual or companies have a legal connection to certain state operate according to state regulation.
- Stated are the only universal organization forms of political space. Non universal alternative to state emerged.
- Only state sovereignty allows nation to get independence and determine their own development and future.
- State is necessary for democracy: democracy without states is impossible.
- Political life and territories without state are chaos (failed state).

### **Non-State Actors**

The concept of non-state actors is generally understood as including any entity that is not actually a state, often used to refer to armed groups, terrorists, civil society, religious groups, or corporations; the concept is occasionally used to encompass intergovernmental organizations. The term non-State actors are a superordinate concept that encompasses all those actors in international relations that are not → State[s].

It comprises individuals (→ Individuals in International Law) as well as entities, the latter spanning a large range of organizations and institutions on the global, regional, sub-regional as well as the local levels. These entities cannot be

identified by common sociological features as they include, inter alia, international organizations, corporations, → non-governmental organizations ('NGOs'), → de facto regime[s], trade associations, and transnational corporations, terrorist groups and transnational criminal organizations.

Non-State actors are increasingly gaining relevance in international relations, though this may not be commensurate with attaining legal capacity.

Non-State actors may be classified in two broad categories, one being international organizations or formations of States, as well as sub-State actors (→ Federal States); these non-State actors retain state or governmental characteristics.

Types of non-state actors:

1. NGOs (Non-governmental organizations)
2. INGOs (International non-governmental organizations)
3. MNCs (Multi-National Corporations)
4. VNSAs (Violent Non-State Actors)

### **International security**

International security, also called global security, is a term which refers to the measures taken by states and international organizations, such as the United Nations, European Union, and others, to ensure mutual survival and safety. These measures include military action and diplomatic agreements such as treaties and conventions. International and national security are invariably linked. International security is national security or state security in the global arena.

International security has taken new forms in twenty-first century, the concept of international security as security among states belongs to twentieth century. Threats are no longer primarily coming from states, Threats are coming from ethnic groups obsessed by hyper nationalism, from criminal gangs, Mafiosi governance, from epidemics, AIDS, terrorism, dangerous food, from poverty, from economic mismanagement, from over-population, from failed states, from flows of refugees, and from pollution.

A useful and rewarding exercise is to distinguish between six levels of security, each defined by the security actors that at the same time are victims of the security-related threats at that level:

1. Security for the individual (individual security).
2. Security for the social group, the community, “nation,” organized national or ethnic entity (societal security).
3. Security for the state or “nation,” in the US terminology (national security).
4. Security for the region, that is, a coherent security region, not necessarily one based on proximity (regional security).
5. Security for the society of nations or what could be referred to as “international society,” consisting of all, or most states in the world (international security).
6. Security for the globe, meaning “Spaceship Earth” or the planet (global security).

## **Balance of power**

The balance of power theory in international relations suggests that states may secure their survival by preventing any one state from gaining enough military power to dominate all others. If one state becomes much stronger, the theory predicts it will take advantage of its weaker neighbors, thereby driving them to unite in a defensive coalition. Some realists maintain that a balance-of-power system is more stable than one with a dominant state, as aggression is unprofitable when there is equilibrium of power between rival coalitions.

The balance of power theory is a core tenet of both classical and neorealist theory and seeks to explain alliance formation. Due to the neorealist idea of anarchism as a result of the international system, states must ensure their survival through maintaining or increasing their power in a self-help world. According to Kenneth Waltz, founder of neorealism, "balance-of-power politics prevail wherever two, and only two requirements are met: that the order be anarchic and that it be populated by units wishing to survive"

Balance of power, in international relations, the posture and policy of a nation or group of nations protecting itself against another nation or group of nations by matching its power against the power of the other side. States can pursue a policy of balance of power in two ways: by increasing their own power, as when engaging in an armaments race or in the competitive acquisition of territory; or by adding to their own power that of other states, as when embarking upon a policy of alliances.

**Middle power**

Middle power, in international relations, a state that holds a position in the international power spectrum that is in the “middle”—below that of a superpower, which wields vastly superior influence over all other states, or of a great power, but with sufficient ability to shape international events.

There are two ways to define a middle power: one is based on a state’s military strength, capabilities, and geostrategic position, while a second is based on a state’s leadership capabilities—in other words, that such states are perceived as being liberal, oriented toward democracy, and having legitimate concerns in international politics. The first conceptualization stems from a realist paradigm and the second from a pluralist paradigm.

Middle powers favor multilateral foreign policy and the formation of coalitions rather than unilateral decision making in foreign policy. The style of diplomacy used by middle powers has been labeled “niche diplomacy,” During the Cold War; the concept of middle powers became empirically stronger as an analytical tool in international relations as a result of a balance of power between the two superpowers.

The role that middle powers play as legitimate brokers is emphasized in the pluralist paradigm of international-relations theory. Middle powers are important to the creation and maintenance of world order, and they favour the establishment of international institutions. In that sense, they act as stabilizers in the world system.

The United Kingdom, China, France and Russia are great powers due to strong economies and their status as recognized nuclear powers and their permanent

seats on the UN Security Council. Some academics also believe that Germany and Japan are not middle powers but great powers, due to their economic strengths and global influence.[8] The overlaps between the lists of middle powers and great powers, and between the lists of small powers and middle powers, show that there is no unanimous agreement among authorities.