

GOVT 1202 Lecture and Reading notes

Lecture Notes

Paradigms

- Operating system, web of assumptions
- Concepts vs variables
 - Paradigm dictates analysis (which variables / concepts)
 - Diff paradigms CAN agree (eg. Capitalists and environmentalists both oppose drilling but on different grounds)
- Policymaking (CANT go the other way)

Paradigm → Analysis → Policy

- Caveats
 - Policy a non-exclusive indicator
 - Leaders' paradigm could be blurred / contaminated
 - Simplified ideal types

Realism

Core assumptions of humans	Selfish, fear, greed, power
World system	Anarchic, Deterministic, conflict-ridden , unmalleable War inevitable
Forces shaping world	National interest Distribution of power
Main actor	State- Unitary, rational, positional, amoral Self help unit
Motivations	1. Self-preservation 2. Territorial integrity 3. Political autonomy Relative gain
Main tools	Balance of Power, status quo, moderation
Outcomes	Balance of power, Zero Sum Gain, Distrust

- Classic realism
 - Offensive- state motivated by greed / aggression
 - Defensive- state motivated by fear / preservation
- Systemic realism
 - Great organising principle- anarchy
 - Balance of power will re-appear
 - National economy- eg. Protectionism good

Liberalism

Core assumptions of humans	Moral, rational
World system	Elastic- can achieve peace
Forces shaping world	Interests Norms/ rules / laws
Main actor	Pluralistic- state reflects interests below, state Atomistic
Motivations	Progress (expedient and moral) Absolute gains (prosperity, peace, freedom)
Main tools	International institutions, laws / norms, collective security, Regime Change, Trade, democratisation
Outcomes	Non Zero Sum Gain, Weaker States, interdependence, peace

- Imperialistic Liberalism / Idealism
 - Take out 'bad apples', democratisation
 - Use military power if necessary
- Institutionalised liberalism
 - Humans expedient, not moral
 - Can shape into benign policy
- Commercial liberalism
 - Motivated by material interest- use common interest to co-operate .
promote peace

The State

- 3 central elements:
 - territory
 - population
 - centralised organisation
 - monopoly over means of coercion

Functions of the State

1. Control territory
 2. Defence
 3. Provision of domestic order
 4. Provision of services
 5. Development of infrastructure
 6. Redistribution of resources (tax)
- Monopolising coercion
 - Disarmament, licensing, destroy power centres
 - Arbitration mechanisms- courts, criminalisation

Sovereignty

- **Domestic** – monopoly of coercion
 - No monopoly, no sovereignty
 - Ontested sovereignty- criminals / militias challenge monopoly
- **International**
 - Must be recognised by international community
 - Eg. Golden Triangle never recognised
 - De facto sovereignty- states which recognise another state operate with it as if it were a sovereign state
- Sovereignty is *relative*, not absolute
 - All states depend on other dependent on others

Development of the State

- Pre-nation state
 - Other units constituted state (eg. City states Sparta vs Athens, church in Middle Ages)
- Nation state
 - National sovereignty with the French Revolution
 - ‘domestic imperialism’ – coercion, commerce, capital and state revenue
- Absolute monarchy
 - Sovereignty = control of church and army
 - Local identities stronger than national
- Crystallising the modern state
 - Strengthen within state- Greater extraction, defence, coercion, legitimacy
 - Greater social penetration / control

- Ruling by class (nobility eg. House of Windsor)
- Mercantile State
 - Control of foreign trade key to control / security

Nationalism

- Definition
 - Amalgamation of pop with territory and gov
 - Rejection and attack of other nations as inferior
- Dangerous nationalism
 - Collapsing social order and increased international competition
 - “cheap bonding agent”
- Ratchet Effect
 - Tighter state grips, more it can extract (Tilly)
- Formation of the nation
 - I. Internal Stability
 - II. External competition
 - Create internal strength through these

Nationalising the State

- Agents of homogenisation:
 - Language, currency, law, trade, Symbolism (french rev)
- Infrastructure
 - Economic Markets
 - Education (primary school- create the national citizen)
 - Arbitration mechanism (courts)
- Provision of public services and jobs
- Police
 - Control dissidence

Negative side effects

- Xenophobia
- Chauvinism (all other inferior)
- Separatist movements
- Irredentism
 - External states try to join nations
- 2 trends
 - Elevation of state quality
 - Elevation of state quantity
 - ‘domestic imperialism’- larger states incorporate smaller ones
- Organic Formation
 - Nation *before* state (eg. Jordan)
 - State grows, takes over others and crystallises
 - Inclusive, cohesive
- Imposed formation
 - State before nation (eg. Germany)

- Rapid formation
- Ethnic cleavages
 - Identities within a nation- leads to separatism
 - Eg. Catalonians in Spain, Scots in Britain

Alternative Models to nationalism

1. Colonialism

- Most direct form of outside control
- Centralised control- imperial state makes decision
- Significant pop component from *outside*

2. Imperialism

- Similar, but less direct
- Local groups control on *behalf* of imperial state, allegiance to imperial gov
- Eg. Sov control of satellite comm. Govs

3. Neo-imperialism

- a. Most subtle form
- b. Sovereign states, yet so dependent on master state that take decisions in line with them

Power

National Interest

- Bernard Body- “whatever country is ready to go to war for” (INDUCTIVE)
- 3 fundamental state motivations:
 - Survival
 - Territorial integrity and autonomy
 - Must compromise to ensure survival (nat interest eg Vichy)
 - Citizens
 - Sacrificed to achieve above 2
- 3 definition of power (interrelated / consequential)
 1. control over resources
 2. control / influence over actors
 3. control / influence over outcomes
- Power is always:
 - Relative, not absolute
 - Dynamic (context dependent)
 - Multi-dimensional

3 dimensions of power

1. Physical dimension

- ‘Potential power of state’