

International Relations and Their Main Features

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Abstract: The current political system varies depending on the country and region. However, there are some common trends and characteristics that can be observed. In many countries, there is a trend towards populism, nationalism, and authoritarianism. This has led to the rise of leaders who are seen as strongmen, who prioritize national interests over global cooperation, and who often use divisive rhetoric to appeal to their base. There is also a growing concern about the erosion of democratic norms and institutions, particularly in countries where there are restrictions on freedom of speech, press, and assembly. This has led to challenges to the rule of law, and concerns about the independence of the judiciary and the media. At the same time, there are also movements towards greater social justice and equality, particularly around issues such as racial justice, gender equality, and climate change. These movements have challenged traditional power structures and called for greater accountability and transparency in government.

Keywords: relationship, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, multinational cooperation, economic globalization, conflict, interactions.

International relations is a field of study that focuses on the relationships between nation-states and other actors in the international system, such as international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and multinational corporations. The field encompasses a wide range of topics, including diplomacy, conflict resolution, security studies, international law, and global governance.

Some of the key features of international relations include:

1. **Anarchy:** The international system is characterized by a lack of a centralized authority or government. This means that nation-states must rely on their own resources and capabilities to ensure their security and pursue their interests.
2. **Sovereignty:** Nation-states are considered to be sovereign entities with the right to govern their own affairs without interference from other states. This principle is enshrined in international law and is a cornerstone of the modern state system.
3. **Interdependence:** Despite the lack of a centralized authority, nation-states are interconnected and interdependent in a variety of ways. Economic globalization, the spread of technology, and the growth of transnational actors have all contributed to the increasing interconnectedness of the world.

Current international relations are characterized by a number of trends and challenges, including:

1. **Rise of China:** China's growing economic and military power has challenged the dominance of the United States in the international system. This has led to increased competition and tensions between the two countries, particularly in areas such as trade, technology, and territorial disputes.

2. **Globalization:** The process of globalization has brought about greater interdependence and interconnectedness between nations, but it has also created new challenges such as economic inequality, environmental degradation, and the spread of infectious diseases.
3. **Rise of non-state actors:** Non-state actors such as multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, and terrorist groups have become increasingly influential in shaping international relations. This has led to new forms of cooperation and conflict that go beyond traditional state-to-state interactions.
4. **Climate change:** Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges facing the world today. It requires collective action and cooperation among nations to address the causes and consequences of global warming.
5. **Nuclear proliferation:** The proliferation of nuclear weapons remains a major concern in international relations. The potential for nuclear conflict and the spread of nuclear technology to rogue states or non-state actors pose significant threats to global security.

In terms of theoretical frameworks, current international relations are shaped by a range of approaches, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical theory. Realism emphasizes the role of power and self-interest in shaping international relations, while liberalism emphasizes cooperation and international institutions. Constructivism focuses on the role of ideas and norms in shaping international behavior, while critical theory highlights issues of power, inequality, and social justice in international relations.

6. **Power:** Power is a central concept in international relations, and it can take many forms, including military, economic, and cultural power. Nation-states use power to pursue their interests and achieve their goals in the international system.
7. **Conflict and Cooperation:** International relations is characterized by both conflict and cooperation between nation-states. While competition for resources and influence can lead to conflict, cooperation is also necessary to address global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and poverty.

Overall, international relations is a complex and dynamic field that seeks to understand the relationships between nation-states and other actors in the international system. By studying these relationships, scholars and practitioners seek to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the world.

The current political system is characterized by a mix of populist, nationalist, and authoritarian tendencies, as well as growing concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and institutions. There is also a growing movement towards greater social justice and equality, which has challenged traditional power structures and called for greater accountability and transparency in government. Overall, the current political system is complex and marked by competing interests and ideologies, with no clear consensus on how to address the challenges facing the world today.

International relations theories can help us understand the way the international systems work, as well as how nations engage with each other and view the world. Varying from liberal, equality-centric strategies to straightforward realist concepts, international relations theories are often used by diplomats and international relations experts to dictate the direction that a government may take in regards to an international political issue or concern. By studying the following key international theories, professionals in the field can better discern the motivations and goals driving policy decisions worldwide.

Realism is a straightforward approach to international relations, stating that all nations are working to increase their own power, and those countries that manage to hoard power most efficiently will thrive, as they can easily eclipse the achievements of less powerful nations. The theory further states that a nation's foremost interest should be self-preservation and that continually gaining power should always be a social, economic, and political imperative.

The nature of realism implies that seeking a moral high ground is a goal that governments cannot always achieve and that deceit and violence can be highly effective tools for advancing national interests. With homeland defense elevated to the highest priority, remaining morally righteous in the eyes of international organizations can take a backseat to enforcing foreign policy that will improve the nation's global stature. In modern times, realism is evident in the foreign policies of China and Russia. The relationship between Russia and Syria is one that has raised eyebrows in Europe and around the world; despite the bloody civil war in Syria—and the international community's pleas for intervention—Russia has maintained strategic relations with the government of Bashar Al-Assad in order to protect Russian interests in the region. Similarly, China continues its diplomatic and economic association with North Korea in spite of the latter's abysmal human rights record and aggressive nuclear testing. Chinese encroachment into the South China Sea and Russia's incursions into Ukraine also highlight the two countries' aggressive—and at times violent—realist political approach to international affairs.

The list of used literature:

1. Fifty Key Thinkers in International Relations, Google Books
2. Handbook of International Relations, Google Books
3. The Globalization of World Politics, Google Books
4. Realism in International Relations, E-International Relations
5. How China, The World's Oldest Marxist State, Proves Marx Wrong, The Atlantic Vietnam Seeks to Lure Students to Study Marxism with Free Tuition, The New York Times
6. IR Theory: Problem Solving Theory vs. Critical Theory, E-International Relations
7. Marxism Festival, Marxism Festival.org
8. Women's Rights and Opportunities, The Office of Hillary Rodham Clinton
9. One Woman Initiative Fund for Women's Empowerment, U.S. Department of State Feminism's Influence on Iceland's Foreign Policy, E-International Relations