

Guidelines For International Relations course.

1. **Sample Notes Only:** Please remember that the notes provided are samples and not comprehensive. They are designed to help you understand key concepts and provide a starting point for your studies, but they do not cover all the material you'll need for the exam. For a complete understanding of the subject, it is essential to attend class regularly and engage with all lectures and materials provided. These notes supplement, but do not replace, the detailed content discussed in class.
2. **Attend Lectures:** Regular attendance at lectures is crucial. Lectures offer valuable insights, explanations, and discussions that can enhance your understanding of the subject matter.
3. **Read Assigned Texts:** Engage with the textbooks and readings suggested during class. These resources are essential for a deeper grasp of the concepts and theories in International Relations.

Chapter 1: An introduction to IR as a Discipline

NOTE: These Notes Are Just Samples Answers.

Q. Meaning and Definitions of International Relations as a Discipline

International relations (IR) is a complex subject that doesn't have a single, clear definition because it is broad and constantly changing. Traditionally, IR focused on the relationships between states, based on the idea of state sovereignty, often referred to as the Westphalian system. Realist thinkers, like Hans Morgenthau, describe IR as a struggle for power among states, emphasizing competition and conflict.

However, this state-centered view has been criticized by liberal theorists, who argue it is too narrow. Liberals expand the definition to include non-state actors, such as international organizations, NGOs, and multinational corporations. They stress the importance of cooperation and interdependence in our interconnected world.

Even with this broader view, some scholars believe the liberal perspective still misses important aspects of global interactions. New theories in international relations—such as International Political Economy (IPE), social constructivism, Green Theory, and critical theory—have

emerged to look at how social, political, economic, and environmental factors shape global politics.

On the basis of above discussion, we can define *international relations as a branch of social science that studies how different actors—mainly state and non-state actors—interact in social, political, economic, military, and environmental areas within a complex global system. It examines how these interactions influence important issues like global governance, security, and cooperation in a constantly changing world.*

Key Definitions of International Relations (write only if asked in exam)

1. **Hoffman:** *“International relations is concerned with the factors and activities that affect the external policies and the powers of the basic units into which the world is divided.”*
2. **Morgenthau:** *“International politics is a struggle for power among the nations.”*
3. **Joshua Goldstein:** *The field of international relations concerns the relationships among world governments.*
4. **Prof. Dunn:** *“IR is concerned with the actual relations that take place across national boundaries, or as the body of knowledge we have of these relations at any given time.”*

Q: Development of International Relations as a Discipline

The development of International Relations (IR) as a discipline lacks a universally agreed-upon starting point. While some scholars trace its origins to the city-states of ancient Greece and the Peloponnesian War, others attribute its emergence to the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, which established the modern nation-state system, a core concept in IR. However, most scholars mark the formal recognition of IR as an academic discipline in 1919, following the end of World War I. Despite these debates, Kenneth Thompson offers a widely accepted framework for understanding its development through four stages. However, Kenneth Thompson's framework remains a valuable explanation, but we cannot ignore the pre-Westphalian period and the post-Cold War period in its development. Therefore, we analyze the development of IR through six stages instead of limiting it to Thompson's four stages.

1. Pre-Westphalian Period (Ancient and Medieval Times) Interactions among political entities, including city-states, empires, and feudal kingdoms, have long been documented. In ancient Greece, the city-states formed alliances, negotiated treaties, and engaged in wars, laying down norms for diplomacy. Medieval Europe witnessed a loosely hierarchical system of political authority often linked to religious institutions like the Catholic Church, with overlapping sovereignties. This period, though characterized by fragmented political structures, laid a foundation for international norms in diplomacy and state relations.

2. Diplomatic History Stage (1648-1919) The Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 is often considered the beginning of the modern state system. It recognized the principle of sovereign nation-states, paving the way for the study of diplomacy and statecraft. During this era, the study of IR focused heavily on descriptive accounts of diplomatic history, wars, and treaties. Historians, rather than political scientists, dominated the study, and efforts were limited to unsystematic analyses of historical events. This stage lacked theoretical rigor and failed to produce causal or predictive analyses of state behaviour.

3. Current Events Stage (1919-1945) The aftermath of World War I marked a turning point in the formal study of IR. In 1919, the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Relations at Aberystwyth University symbolized its academic institutionalization. Scholars shifted their focus from purely historical analyses to the study of contemporary events and global politics. However, this phase remained limited by its focus on immediate affairs, lacking comprehensive theoretical frameworks and historical context necessary for deeper understanding.

4. Law and Organization Stage (1919-1945) During the interwar period, IR scholars sought to establish legal and institutional mechanisms to ensure global peace, resulting in the creation of the League of Nations. This era, rooted in idealism, emphasized the role of international law and organizations as instruments for conflict resolution. However, the approach proved inadequate, as it failed to account for the power dynamics and national interests that often superseded international agreements. The League's failure to prevent World War II highlighted the limitations of relying solely on legalistic and organizational approaches.

5. Scientific Studies Stage (1945-1991): The post-World War II era reshaped International Relations due to Cold War dynamics, decolonization in Asia and Africa, and rising non-state actors. Realism, led by Hans Morgenthau, emphasized state power and anarchy, while the 1970s saw Kenneth Waltz's Neo-Realism focus on the structure of the international system. Scholars adopted scientific and behavioural approaches, including systems theory, game theory, and decision-making models to analyse state interactions. This period also saw the rise of liberalism, stressing international cooperation, along with feminism and social constructivism, which highlighted gender, norms, and social influences in global politics. These developments expanded IR beyond state-centric theories to include broader social and institutional factors.

6. Globalization and Post-Cold War Developments (1991-Present): The end of the Cold War marked a shift in international relations, characterized by heightened globalization and increased interconnectedness across economic, technological, and cultural domains. This period saw the rise of a "global village" as states and societies became more interdependent. However, globalization also amplified inequalities, raising debates over global justice and the unequal distribution of benefits. The post-Cold War era brought attention to transnational issues such as climate change, terrorism, global health crises, and economic disparities, challenging traditional state-centric approaches. These global issues highlighted the complexities of governance and cooperation, prompting debates over fairness, equity, and the role of powerful states and institutions in shaping global norms and policies. While globalization fostered opportunities for cooperation, it also revealed deep-rooted structural inequalities, sparking ongoing discussions about creating a more just and equitable global order.

1.1.1 Q. The Scope or Subject matter of International Relations

International relations is a broad and diverse field that lacks strict boundaries, allowing for a wide range of topics and perspectives. Like other social sciences, IR benefits from collaboration with disciplines such as economics, sociology, and environmental studies. Since World War II, the scope of IR has expanded significantly, moving from a primary focus on relationships between governments to include various aspects of international politics, such as political

economy, security, and environmental issues. While the scope of international relations is indeed wide and continually evolving, the following areas have become central to its study:

1. **Nation-States and Their Relations:** At the heart of international relations is the study of nation-states and their interactions. This includes understanding how countries engage with each other through diplomacy, trade, conflict, and cooperation. These relationships remain a fundamental focus within the discipline.
2. **The Rise of Non-State Actors:** non-state actors have gained significant importance in recent years. Multinational corporations (MNCs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) play critical roles in shaping global politics. They influence policy-making and international cooperation through economic activities and advocacy.
3. **International Political Economy (IPE):** IPE examines the relationship between politics and economics on a global scale. With globalization's rise since the mid-1980s, this area has gained renewed interest. IPE analyzes how economic factors affect political relations and vice versa, covering topics like trade policies and economic development.
4. **Security Studies:** Security is a core concern in international relations. This area encompasses issues such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, military strategies, and peacekeeping efforts. Research focuses on the causes of conflict and the conditions necessary for maintaining a peaceful international order.
5. **Foreign Policies of Major Powers:** The foreign policies of major and medium powers are crucial in shaping international relations. Countries like the United States, China, Russia, Japan, and India significantly influence global affairs. Understanding their foreign policies provides insights into power dynamics, alliances, and conflicts.
6. **Globalization:** Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of countries through economic, social, and political processes. This phenomenon has transformed international interactions, creating new challenges and opportunities. It encompasses a wide range of issues, including cultural exchanges and technological advancements.
7. **Environmental Issues:** Environmental concerns have become vital in international relations. Issues like climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation

require international cooperation for effective solutions. The interdependence created by these challenges means that actions in one country can have global effects.

8. **International Terrorism:** International terrorism involves terrorist activities that cross national borders and is a crucial area of study. Understanding the causes and consequences of terrorism, as well as strategies for countering it, is essential for maintaining global peace and security.
9. **Area Studies:** Area studies focus on specific regions, such as West Asia, South Asia, or Central Europe. This approach allows for in-depth analysis of political, security, and economic issues unique to each region. With the rise of regional organizations and free trade agreements, area studies provide valuable insights into localized dynamics within the broader context of international relations.

Thus, the scope of international relations (IR) is broad and constantly changing, reflecting the complexities of our world. It started with a focus on nation-states but now includes non-state actors, economic factors, security issues, and environmental concerns. The rise of globalization, international terrorism, and area studies shows how dynamic the field is. As new challenges and opportunities arise, IR adapts and incorporates new ideas, ensuring it remains relevant for understanding global affairs. In short, international relations is a living discipline that evolves with the changing landscape of global politics.

1.1.2 Q. The Importance or Significance of International Relations

International Relations (IR) is essential for understanding the complex web of interactions among countries, organizations, and people in our increasingly interconnected world. As global challenges like climate change, terrorism, and pandemics arise, IR helps us make sense of these issues and find effective solutions. Here's why IR is so important for everyone, from students to policymakers.

1. **Understanding Global Issues:** One of the primary roles of IR is to help us grasp the intricate nature of global problems that affect multiple countries. Issues such as climate change and pandemics don't recognize borders, making international cooperation crucial. For example, the **Paris Climate Agreement** of 2015 brought together nearly 200 nations

to tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Similarly, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** played a vital role in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries had to coordinate their efforts for research, vaccine distribution, and health strategies. Through the lens of IR, we can analyze how international cooperation can succeed or fail, especially when nationalistic policies disrupt global unity.

2. **Promoting Peace and Security:** Another crucial aspect of IR is its focus on peace and security. The study of IR equips policymakers with tools to prevent conflicts and promote stability. For instance, the **United Nations (UN)** has been a key player in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. The UN Peacekeeping Mission in Cyprus has maintained peace since 1964, demonstrating how international diplomacy and negotiation can resolve long-standing disputes.
3. **Encouraging International Cooperation** IR also fosters our understanding of how nations work together to achieve shared goals in areas like trade, development, and environmental protection. The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** serves as a platform for countries to negotiate trade agreements and resolve disputes. This illustrates how global economic interdependence drives cooperation among nations. By studying IR, we can better understand the role of international institutions in shaping economic policies.
4. **Understanding Development and Backwardness of Nations:** IR also sheds light on why some countries advance while others lag behind. For example, India's economic growth in the 1990s can be attributed to its **Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization (LPG)** model, which opened up its economy to international markets. In contrast, China's rapid development followed its **Open Door Policy**, which encouraged foreign investment and trade. On the other hand, the disintegration of the **USSR** serves as a lesson in the consequences of poor policies, particularly under Mikhail Gorbachev
5. **Addressing Emerging Global Challenges:** The study of IR is vital for tackling new global challenges in modern technology driven world like cybersecurity. Cybersecurity threats, such as the **2017 WannaCry ransomware attack**, show the need for countries to work together to establish norms and regulations to protect against such attacks. IR provides the tools to analyze these threats and coordinate responses.
6. **Analyzing Foreign Policies and Diplomacy of major powers:** Understanding foreign policies is another critical area of IR. By studying the foreign policies of different nations,

we can better grasp their actions on the global stage. For instance, **India's leadership** in the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War illustrates how countries navigate global power dynamics to pursue their interests. By studying these cases, we can understand the motivations and consequences of actions taken by powerful nations.

7. **Developing Critical Thinking Skills to IR students:** Finally, studying IR enhances analytical and critical thinking skills. Students learn to assess complex international systems and predict global trends. For instance, analyzing historical cases like the **Camp David Accords** between Egypt and Israel teaches valuable lessons about diplomacy and negotiation.

In conclusion, International Relations is a vital discipline in our interconnected world. It helps us understand global issues, promotes peace and security, encourages cooperation, and prepares us to face emerging challenges. By studying IR, we gain valuable insights into how countries and organizations interact, which is essential for addressing some of the most pressing problems we face today. This knowledge equips future generations to navigate the complexities of the international landscape, making IR not just an academic pursuit, but a critical tool for a better future.

Q. Nature and changing Nature of international Relations .

A. Nature of International Relations

The nature of International Relations (IR) is continuously evolving, driven by the dynamic interactions among states, institutions, and global actors. As the world becomes more interconnected, our understanding of international affairs is also shifting. Here are the key characteristics that define the nature of IR today.

1. **Anarchical Nature of International Relations:** A fundamental aspect of IR is its anarchical nature. Unlike domestic systems governed by a central authority, the international arena lacks a global government. This means that states operate independently and must ensure their own security. Military power, diplomacy, and alliances are critical in this self-help environment. For example, during the Cold War, the US and the Soviet Union engaged in an arms race and formed alliances like NATO and

the Warsaw Pact, reflecting the competition and uncertainty inherent in an anarchic system.

2. **States as the Primary Actors:** While non-state actors such as NGOs and international organizations play important roles, states remain the central figures in IR. States hold sovereignty, allowing them to establish foreign policies that reflect their national interests. For instance, the United Nations operates primarily through the involvement of sovereign states, with the UN Security Council largely influenced by its five permanent members (the US, Russia, China, France, and the UK).
3. **Eurocentric Perspectives:** Historically, IR has been shaped by European and American experiences, leading to a Eurocentric focus. This dominance can marginalize non-Western perspectives and limit our understanding of **global** dynamics. Major theories like Realism and Liberalism originated from Western scholars, often centering discussions on democracy and governance around the policies of the US and Europe, sidelining alternative viewpoints from other regions.
4. **Multidisciplinary Approach:** IR is inherently multidisciplinary, drawing insights from various fields such as politics, economics, history, sociology, law, and geography. This approach helps unpack the complexity of global interactions. For example, analyzing globalization requires understanding economic factors (like trade), sociological aspects (such as migration), and political influences (like international institutions), allowing for a more comprehensive analysis of global issues.
5. **Multi-Theoretical Framework:** IR is characterized by its multi-theoretical nature, as no single theory can fully explain its complexities. Scholars utilize various frameworks to analyze different aspects of global politics.

1.1.2.1 *Key theories include:*

- **Realism**, which focuses on power and conflict.
- **Liberalism**, which emphasizes cooperation and institutions.
- **Constructivism**, which examines the role of ideas and norms.
- **Feminism**, critiquing gender dynamics in politics.
- **Post-colonialism**, challenging Western dominance.

6. **Scientific Methodology:** *In recent years, IR has adopted scientific methodologies, employing quantitative research and case studies to uncover patterns in state behavior. This approach enhances the understanding of international dynamics. Game theory, commonly used in economics, has been applied in IR to model strategic interactions, such as explaining the difficulties of cooperation between rival states through scenarios like the Prisoner's Dilemma*

B. The Changing Nature of International Relations

International Relations (IR) has transformed significantly in recent decades. It is no longer dominated solely by state-to-state interactions; various actors and shifting priorities now play crucial roles. Here are the key changes:

1. **Increasing Role of Non-State Actors:** Non-state actors, including multinational corporations (MNCs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and supranational organizations like the EU and UN, are becoming increasingly influential. These entities contribute to policy-making and conflict resolution, especially in areas like humanitarian aid and environmental activism. For example, the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 saw collaboration between states and various non-state actors to combat climate change.
2. **Shift in Geopolitical Focus:** The center of global politics has shifted from Europe and North America to Asia and the Global South, including Africa and Latin America. Powers like China and India are emerging as key players, while regional organizations such as the African Union and ASEAN are gaining importance. China's Belt and Road Initiative exemplifies Asia's rising influence.
3. **Emphasis on Global Interdependence:** Traditionally, IR focused on military security and inter-state wars. Today, there is a growing recognition of global interdependence. Issues like climate change, terrorism, and pandemics require collective action from both states and non-state actors. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the necessity for unprecedented cooperation in managing global health and economic recovery.
4. **Technological Advancements:** The rapid advancement of technology, especially in communication and information, has transformed how states and non-state actors interact. Cybersecurity issues, digital diplomacy, and social media have become vital components of modern IR, influencing public opinion and state actions alike.

5. **Focus on Human Security:** There is a shifting emphasis from traditional notions of state security to a broader concept of human security, which prioritizes the well-being of individuals. Issues such as poverty, health, and human rights are increasingly recognized as critical to global stability, prompting a more holistic approach to international policy.
6. **Rise of Global Governance:** As global challenges become more complex, there is a growing recognition of the need for effective global governance mechanisms. International institutions are evolving to address issues like climate change and trade disputes, promoting collaboration among a wider array of stakeholders.

In summary, the evolving nature of IR reflects the increasing influence of non-state actors, a shift in geopolitical focus, a strong emphasis on global cooperation, technological advancements, a focus on human security, and the rise of global governance. As the world becomes more interdependent, IR adapts to these complexities, prioritizing sustainable development and collective welfare.

Q: Nation State System

The **nation-state system** is a political organization model characterized by a unified territory, population, government, and sovereignty that embodies a common national identity. This system is rooted in the concept of a state as the central authority governing within a clearly defined territory and recognized by other states. A "nation-state" specifically implies a political entity where the boundaries of a nation (a group of people with a common identity) coincide with those of a state (an organized political structure). The emergence and evolution of this system marked a significant shift in the way human societies were governed and related to each other on a global scale.

Characteristic of Nation State System

1. **Territory:** A nation-state has a defined and recognized geographical area over which it exercises authority and control. Territorial boundaries mark the limits of a state's

sovereignty and are recognized by other states in the international system. Control over this territory is a key aspect of a state's identity and legitimacy.

2. **Population:** The nation-state encompasses a population, which consists of individuals residing within its defined territory. The citizens of the state often share a common culture, language, history, or national identity. The state's policies and actions typically aim to serve and protect this population, reinforcing a collective sense of belonging.
3. **Government:** Every nation-state has a government—a political organization with the authority to make and enforce laws, conduct international relations, provide public services, and maintain order within its territory. The government operates on behalf of the state and represents its citizens domestically and in international forums.
4. **Non-Interference:** One of the key principles underpinning the nation-state system is the notion of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. This characteristic, stemming from the Westphalian tradition, means that each state has the right to govern itself without external intervention, provided it does not violate international norms or agreements.
5. **Sovereignty:** Sovereignty is the supreme authority of the state to govern itself without any external influence or control. It entails the state's exclusive right to make decisions, enact laws, regulate internal affairs, and conduct foreign relations. Sovereignty is a cornerstone of the nation-state system and establishes the legitimacy of the state in international relations.
6. **Diplomatic Recognition and Relationships:** For a state to be considered a nation-state, it must be recognized by other states. Diplomatic recognition is a key factor in establishing state legitimacy in international relations. Recognized states engage in diplomatic activities, such as negotiating treaties, forming alliances, and participating in international organizations, to further their interests and collaborate on global issues.
7. **Legally Equal Status of States:** In the nation-state system, all states are considered legally equal, regardless of their size, power, or economic standing. This principle of equality means that each state has the same rights and obligations under international law. While practical disparities exist, the idea of legal equality ensures that all states are treated as sovereign entities within the international system.

Development of the Nation-State System

The nation-state system has its origins in the historical and socio-political transformations that took place in Europe from the late medieval period onward. Its development can be traced through key phases and events, with particular emphasis on the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, which is often considered the formal birth of the modern state system.

Pre-Westphalian Context: Before the establishment of the nation-state system, political authority was often fragmented and diffused. Europe, in particular, was dominated by feudal structures, where power was decentralized and held by local lords and nobles, who owed allegiance to a higher monarch or overlord. The Catholic Church wielded immense influence, often competing with monarchs and other secular leaders for control over territories. Boundaries were fluid, and loyalties were tied more to personal allegiances than to any notion of territorial statehood.

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648): The Thirty Years' War was a major conflict that ravaged much of Europe, driven by religious and political tensions between Catholic and Protestant states. This devastating war highlighted the need for a new order and led to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. The treaties of Westphalia recognized the principle of state sovereignty and established that no external power, including religious authorities, could intervene in the internal affairs of a state. This laid the groundwork for the modern state system by solidifying territorial borders and establishing the notion of legal equality among states.

Rise of Centralized Authority: Following Westphalia, monarchs in Europe began consolidating power within their borders, creating centralized state structures capable of enforcing laws, levying taxes, and maintaining standing armies. This shift from fragmented feudal loyalties to centralized governance marked a major step toward the establishment of nation-states.

The transition from **colonialism to decolonization** played a crucial role in the development and spread of the nation-state system. Colonialism, which involved the control and exploitation of territories by powerful imperial states, often imposed foreign governance structures, economic

systems, and cultural practices on colonized regions. The colonial period reshaped local societies, economies, and political boundaries, laying the groundwork for the future emergence of nation-states, albeit often through force and coercion.

As colonies began to demand independence in the 20th century, driven by nationalist movements, the decolonization process unfolded, reshaping the global political landscape. Former colonies achieved sovereignty and sought to establish themselves as independent nation-states with defined territories, centralized governments, and recognition by the international community. This transition from colonial rule to self-governance was often challenging, as many newly formed nation-states grappled with legacies of arbitrary borders, ethnic divisions, and economic dependence imposed by their former colonizers.

Factors Leading to the Emergence of the Nation-State System

1. **Decline of Feudalism:** The collapse of feudal structures, characterized by decentralized power and a hierarchy of vassalage, facilitated the rise of centralized monarchies that would later evolve into nation-states.
2. **Economic Changes and Capitalism:** The rise of trade, commerce, and early capitalist economies required stability and uniformity in governance, which was best provided by centralized state structures capable of regulating markets and maintaining order.
3. **Technological Innovations:** Inventions such as the printing press helped disseminate new ideas about governance and national identity. Improved communication and transportation facilitated stronger political control and unity within territorial borders.
4. **Religious Reformation and Conflict:** The Protestant Reformation challenged the authority of the Catholic Church, leading to religious wars that compelled states to assert their sovereignty over religious affairs. This further reinforced the idea of state autonomy and territorial integrity.
5. **Military Advancements:** The development of professional armies and new military technologies necessitated centralized control over resources and manpower, strengthening state institutions and consolidating power within defined borders.

6. **Colonial Expansion:** European states established vast colonial empires, which necessitated centralized mechanisms for administration, control, and resource extraction. This further strengthened the nation-state as a dominant model of political organization.
7. **Nationalism and Enlightenment Ideals:** The Enlightenment era brought forth ideas of political legitimacy derived from the consent of the governed, popular sovereignty, and national identity. Nationalism provided a unifying force within territories, aligning state governance with the cultural identity of its people.
8. The **Peace of Westphalia (1648)** marked a critical turning point in the emergence of the nation-state system, establishing key principles such as state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference. It laid the foundation for modern statehood by recognizing the rights of states to govern themselves independently, thus formalizing the concept of the sovereign state.
9. **Decolonization** further expanded and entrenched the nation-state system, as former colonies gained independence and established themselves as sovereign states. This transition significantly increased the number of nation-states globally, reinforcing the dominance of this system and promoting self-determination, territorial governance, and global recognition.

Challenges of nation State System

The **nation-state system** faces several significant challenges that impact its functioning and influence in international relations:

1. **Globalization and Economic Interdependence:** The rise of globalization has led to increased economic, cultural, and technological interconnections, often transcending state boundaries. While beneficial in fostering trade and cooperation, it also challenges state sovereignty as states must adhere to international agreements, financial markets, and global economic trends, sometimes at the expense of their own national priorities.
2. **Transnational Threats:** Issues such as climate change, terrorism, cyber security threats, and pandemics often require collective action and cooperation among states. These global issues undermine the traditional notion of state sovereignty and pose a challenge to the effectiveness of nation-states acting in isolation.

3. **Supranational Organizations and Multilateralism:** The influence of entities like the European Union and international bodies such as the United Nations can challenge the sovereignty of nation-states. By participating in these organizations, states may need to cede a degree of control over certain domestic and international policies, which can create tensions between national interests and global commitments.
4. **Ethnic and Nationalist Conflicts:** Within many states, ethnic, linguistic, or religious divisions can lead to internal conflicts and challenge the cohesion of the nation-state. Nationalist movements seeking autonomy or independence can further fragment states, potentially leading to instability, violence, or secession.

Very Short answer type questions or terms

1. **International Relations:** The study of interactions among states, international organizations, and non-state actors, focusing on political, economic, and social relationships on a global scale.
2. **International Anarchy:** The absence of a central governing authority in the international system, leading to a decentralized structure where states operate independently and prioritize their own interests.
3. **Westphalian System:** A principle of international relations established by the Peace of Westphalia (1648), emphasizing state sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the recognition of equal rights among states.
4. **Survival as per Realists:** In realism, survival is the primary goal of states, emphasizing the need for power and security in an anarchic international system where conflicts are inevitable.
5. **Self-Help:** A concept in realism where states must rely on their own capabilities to ensure their security and interests, as no higher authority guarantees safety or support in the international arena.
6. **Liberalism:** An IR theory emphasizing cooperation, international institutions, and the role of non-state actors, advocating that states can achieve mutual benefits through diplomacy and collaboration.
7. **Realism:** A theory in IR that focuses on power, national interest, and the competitive nature of states, asserting that conflict and self-interest drive international behavior.

8. **State:** A sovereign political entity with defined territorial boundaries, a permanent population, and an organized government that exercises authority and conducts foreign relations.

DR Suheel Parry

Unit 2

Key Concepts of International Politics

I. National Power: Meaning, Elements, Methods and Limitations

Q: Meaning of National Power.

Power, in its broad sense, refers to the ability or capacity to control or influence the actions and behaviours of others in accordance with one's objectives. Different scholars have provided nuanced definitions of power:

Hans Morgenthau defines power as “a psychological relation between those who exercise it and those over whom it is exercised. It gives the former control over certain actions of the latter through the influence exerted on the latter's mind.” This emphasizes the relational and psychological aspects of power.

Georg Schwarzenberger adds a practical dimension by defining power as “the capacity to impose one's will on others by reliance on effective sanctions in case of noncompliance.” This highlights the ability to enforce actions through consequences.

A.F.K. Organski explains power as “the ability to influence the behaviour of others in accordance with one's own ends.” This perspective stresses the utility of power in achieving objectives.

Charles simplifies the idea, stating power is “the ability to make a man do what one wants and not do what one does not want.”

Thus, National power can be defined as the comprehensive capacity of a state to achieve its objectives in the international arena by influencing the behaviour and decisions of other states or actors. It is not merely a tool of coercion but a means to secure and advance national interests, whether through diplomacy, persuasion, or force.

Q: Elements of National Power: Introduction

National power is shaped by various elements, which scholars have grouped differently:

Hans Morgenthau classified elements as permanent (like geography) and temporary (like leadership and morale).

Organski divided them into natural determinants (geography, resources, population) and social determinants (economic development, political structures, and morale).

Palmer and Perkins differentiated between tangible elements (measurable factors like economy, geography, resources, and population) and intangible elements (non-measurable factors like ideology, morale, and leadership).

Q: Explain Geography as an Element of National Power?

Geography is one of the most permanent and tangible factors influencing a nation's power. As Napoleon Bonaparte stated, "The foreign policy of a country is determined by its geography." To understand this, we can look at key aspects like size, location, climate, topography, and boundaries.

1. Size: A large-sized country has advantages like abundant natural resources, space for a large population, and room for industries. It also helps in defending borders by retreating during attacks. However, size alone doesn't guarantee power. For instance, Russia is larger than the USA but less powerful in terms of global influence. Similarly, small countries like Israel can be strong due to their advanced defence systems.

2. Location: The location of a country can shape its role in world affairs. For example, England's Island location helped it become a dominant naval power. The USA's distance from Europe and Asia allowed it to follow an isolationist policy for much of its history. In contrast, Canada's proximity to the USA limited its chances of becoming a superpower.

3. Climate: A country's climate impacts its food production, economy, and culture. Extreme climates, like the Arctic's cold or the Sahara's heat, make development challenging. Moderate climates, on the other hand, often support economic growth and stable living conditions.

4. Topography: Physical features like mountains, plains, and rivers affect national power.

For example, The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans protect the USA, giving it natural security.

The Himalayas serve as a protective barrier for India's northern borders.

However, countries with vast plains or artificial boundaries are more vulnerable to attacks or invasions.

5. Boundaries: Clearly defined natural boundaries (like rivers or mountains) can promote peace and cooperation with neighbours. Unsettled or disputed boundaries often lead to conflicts, weakening a nation's power.

Geography is a crucial factor in shaping a country's power and its role in international politics. However, it's not just about having favourable geography—it's also about how effectively a country uses its geographical advantages to enhance its strength and influence.

Q: Discuss some important elements of National Power?

1. **Geography:** Geography significantly influences a nation's power through its size, location, climate, topography, and boundaries. Large size provides resources and space, while strategic locations shape global roles. Moderate climates boost development, and natural barriers like mountains or oceans enhance security. Clear boundaries promote peace, but disputed ones lead to conflict. Ultimately, a nation's strength depends on effectively leveraging its geographical advantages.
2. **Natural resources:** Natural resources are crucial for national power, enabling agricultural growth, industrialization, and energy security. However, their value depends on effective use. For example, the Middle East, rich in oil and gas, has nations like Saudi Arabia leveraging resources for global influence, while others face challenges due to mismanagement. Resource wealth alone is not enough; strategic utilization is key to building sustainable strength.
3. **Population:** Population is another essential factor. A large and skilled population can provide a strong workforce and contribute to economic and industrial development. Moreover, population plays a key role in building military strength, as a large, healthy, and disciplined population serves as the backbone of a nation's defense forces. However, an unskilled or unproductive population can hinder development, making investments in education and skill development vital for nation-building.
4. **Economic development:** Economic development significantly influences national power. A prosperous economy allows a country to leverage tools like aid, loans, and trade to influence other nations. For example, the USA uses its economic strength to shape global

policies, while weaker nations face limits in their ability to exert influence. Economic growth ensures both domestic welfare and international standing.

5. **Industrial capacity:** Industrial capacity is another critical element, as it allows a country to convert its natural resources into finished goods and meet the demands of modern economies. Countries like the USA, Germany, and China are global powers due to their advanced industries, while nations lagging in industrialization struggle to compete. The rise of technologies like Artificial Intelligence and the Fourth Industrial Revolution further emphasizes the importance of industrial innovation in national power.
6. **Ideology:** Ideology is an intangible but powerful element that shapes a nation's global image and relationships. Positive ideologies like India's Non-Alignment Movement during the Cold War allowed it to maintain independence in foreign policy, while divisive ideologies like Nazism and Fascism weakened Germany and Italy during World War II, earning them global criticism.
7. **Leadership:** Leadership plays a crucial role in directing a nation's resources and ensuring progress. Visionary and competent leaders maximize efficiency and guide their countries toward stability and growth, while weak leadership can lead to stagnation and decline.
8. **National character and morale:** National character and morale reflect the values, determination, and attitudes of a nation's people. High morale, driven by achievements like military victories or economic growth, boosts national power, while setbacks like political instability or defeat in war weaken it. National character, such as the discipline of Germans or the innovation of Americans, also plays a role in shaping a country's identity and strength.

Q: The Strategic or skill full Use of National Power

While factors such as natural resources, population, wealth, and military might contribute to national power, they are not sufficient on their own. The skillful and strategic use of these resources is critical. For example:

A country with abundant natural resources must have the technological and industrial capability to utilize them effectively.

A large population needs education and skill development to become an asset rather than a liability.

Wealth alone does not confer power unless it is used to build diplomatic influence, military strength, or economic leverage.

In international politics, power is not just about possession but about strategy. It is the ability to translate potential into actionable influence that determines a state's true power on the global stage.

Q: Methods or instruments of National Power

There are four main methods of national power through which states try to secure their desired ends: persuasion, rewards, punishment, and force. If power is defined as the ability to control the behaviour of other states, these methods can also be regarded as the instruments of the exercise of power

1. Persuasion: Persuasion is the simplest and most peaceful method. States use arguments and diplomacy to convince others to follow their preferred actions without offering rewards or threatening punishments. This approach works by redefining situations in a way that aligns mutual interests. Diplomacy relies heavily on persuasion, making it an essential tool for maintaining good relations and avoiding conflict.

2. Rewards: Rewards involve offering benefits to encourage cooperation. These can be economic, like financial aid or trade agreements, or military, such as providing weapons or training. Politically, rewards might include supporting a nation's position in international organizations. For example, during the Cold War, both the U.S. and the Soviet Union offered economic aid to gain allies. This method is effective for wealthier states that can afford to incentivize others.

3. Punishment: Punishment uses threats or actions to discourage unwanted behaviour. It can include sanctions, diplomatic isolation, or supporting a rival state. Often, the mere threat of punishment is enough to achieve the desired result. However, if punishment is applied, it should be reversible to encourage compliance. For instance, trade bans or political pressure are commonly used to make nations change harmful policies.

4. Force: Force is the most extreme method, involving physical violence or war. It is used only when other methods fail. Force compels immediate compliance but often leads to long-term conflicts and strained relations. While effective in the short term, it is considered a last resort due to its devastating consequences.

States use these methods strategically based on their goals and resources, with persuasion and rewards being more peaceful, while punishment and force involve higher risks and consequences.

Q: Limitations of National Power

Several factors limit the effectiveness of national power.

- One major factor is the balance of power in the international system, which prevents any state from becoming too dominant and disrupting global stability.
- Second, international organizations and laws regulate state behavior by creating rules that are binding for all, ensuring accountability.
- Third, international morality, a set of shared moral principles, influences states to act responsibly by respecting human rights, sovereignty, and non-interference in other nations' affairs.
- Fourth, world public opinion plays a crucial role in shaping state policies. Global movements advocating for peace, minority rights, campaigns against sexual abuse, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and nuclear weapons demonstrate the power of public opinion in restraining states.
- Fifth, the principle of collective security helps manage national power, as states collectively work to maintain peace and security when any state violates the norms.
- Finally, arms control and disarmament limit national power by reducing or abolishing weapons through international agreements. Arms control focuses on regulating the arms race, while disarmament aims to eliminate existing weapons altogether.

These mechanisms collectively ensure that no single state can misuse its power or threaten global peace.

II. **National Interest: Meaning, Components and Types**

Q: Why National Interest is Difficult to Define

National Interest serves as a guiding principle for a nation's foreign policy, acting as a framework or constitution that shapes its decisions and actions on the global stage. It helps countries prioritize their objectives, protect their sovereignty, and maintain their political, economic, and cultural identity. However, despite its significance, defining National Interest remains challenging due to its fluid, subjective, and evolving nature, as well as the diverse interpretations and applications it entails.

1. Ambiguity and Context Dependency

The term "National Interest" is inherently vague, with its meaning shifting based on the situation. Policymakers often redefine it to suit their objectives. For instance, Hitler justified his expansionist policies as being in "Germany's National Interest," while the USA cited its nuclear base at Diego Garcia as essential to "American National Interest." Similarly, the Soviet Union framed its intervention in Afghanistan as part of "Soviet National Interest."

2. Dynamic and Evolving Nature

National Interest is not static and changes with time and circumstances. During World War II, for example, the USA and USSR set aside their ideological differences to ally against Germany, driven by their respective national interests. Later, during the Cold War, the USA shifted from isolating China to building relations with it to counterbalance the Soviet Union.

3. Blurred Lines Between Domestic and International Interests

National Interest often blurs the distinction between domestic priorities and international actions. A nation's focus on internal policies, like economic self-reliance, can directly influence global relations, such as trade agreements or international partnerships.

4. Conflict with Global Ideals

National Interest can sometimes contradict universal goals like global peace, international cooperation, and disarmament. For example, a country's pursuit of military strength for national security may directly conflict with global efforts to promote disarmament.

5. Diverse Scholarly Interpretations

Scholars interpret National Interest in different ways, further complicating its definition. For instance as per Frankel, the Objectivist Approach Scholars defines it using measurable factors like security and economic growth, while the Subjectivist Approach Scholars views it as dynamic and shaped by subjective priorities like culture and politics.

These diverse factors make National Interest a fluid and contested concept, shaped by time, context, and varying perspectives.

Q. Meaning of National Interest

Hans Morgenthau defines national interest as **survival**, encompassing the “protection of physical, political, and cultural identity against encroachments by other nation-states.” This highlights the fundamental objective of a state to safeguard its existence and unique character. For instance, cultural identity includes values and traditions integral to a nation's heritage, political identity refers to its governance and economic systems, and physical identity pertains to territorial sovereignty. Morgenthau emphasizes that survival is the foremost priority, even justifying war if necessary to protect these vital components.

V.V. Dyke broadens the concept by defining national interest as “the values, desires, and interests that states seek to protect or achieve in relation to each other.” This definition highlights the aspirations of a nation in its interaction with other states, covering both essential and non-essential goals. For example, economic cooperation with neighboring countries may be a desired interest but may not fall under survival concerns.

In general, national interest refers to the **demands, goals, interests, and claims** of a nation aimed at protecting, preserving, and defending its interactions with other states. It involves not just survival but also the pursuit of influence, power, and prosperity in international relations. For instance, a nation might prioritize economic alliances or cultural exchange programs, which, though significant, may not directly impact survival.

Q. Components of National Interest

1. Necessary or Vital Components

These are critical for a nation's survival and encompass its cultural, political, and physical identity. Morgenthau subdivides this identity into:

- **Cultural Identity:** A nation's traditions, historical values, and shared heritage. For example, the preservation of indigenous cultures in a multicultural nation safeguards its historical legacy. States prioritize protecting their cultural identity to maintain societal cohesion and a sense of belonging among citizens.
- **Physical Identity:** This relates to territorial sovereignty. Protecting borders, such as the demarcation of India's northern borders by the Himalayas, is an example of maintaining physical identity. Territorial integrity is non-negotiable, as seen in Ukraine's resistance against Russia's invasion. Despite being a smaller nation, Ukraine fights to protect its land, demonstrating that territorial sovereignty is vital to national survival.
- **Political Identity:** This refers to a nation's governance structure and economic system. For instance, the preservation of democracy in the U.S. or the socialist framework in certain Scandinavian countries reflects political identity. States fiercely defend their political systems, as these form the backbone of their stability and sovereignty.

Therefore, Survival of a state is considered as most vital component of national interest, means a state will **not compromise on these interests** and is willing to engage in armed conflict if its sovereignty, political system, or territorial integrity is threatened. The **security of the state** is paramount, as demonstrated by Ukraine's ongoing war with Russia to defend its sovereignty.

1.1.3 2. Variable or Non-Vital Components

Variable or non-vital components are objectives influenced by the changing circumstances of a state. Unlike vital components, they do not directly threaten a nation's existence and are often shaped by factors such as public opinion, party politics, or group interests. For instance, public opinion might lead a government to adopt foreign policies like supporting global climate change initiatives. Political factors, such as the ideologies of the ruling party, can influence policies, like trade agreements that benefit specific industries. Similarly, moral considerations may drive a country to prioritize humanitarian aid, such as disaster relief, even if it is not directly tied to national survival.

These components represent aspirations that states aim to achieve but are not willing to go to war over. For example, economic partnerships or advancements in technology are significant but not critical enough to risk armed conflict if unfulfilled. V.V. Dyke categorizes these non-vital interests into prosperity, peace, ideology, justice, prestige, power, and aggrandizement. While each state defines these interests to suit its changing circumstances, these categories are common to almost all nations. This flexibility allows states to adapt their objectives based on the situation while maintaining their broader aspirations in the global arena.

1.1.4 Q. Classification of National Interest by Thomas W. Robinson

Thomas W. Robinson divides national interests into six categories:

1. **Primary Interests:** These are the most crucial interests that no nation will compromise on. They include protecting the country's political system, cultural heritage, and physical territory.
2. **Secondary Interests:** These are less important than primary interests but still significant. Examples include protecting citizens living abroad or ensuring the safety and privileges of diplomatic staff.
3. **Permanent Interests:** These are long-term goals that a nation consistently pursues. For instance, China's focus on maintaining its dominance in the South Asian region is a permanent interest.

4. **Variable Interests:** These depend on specific situations and can sometimes take priority over primary or permanent interests. They change based on circumstances, such as responding to an international crisis.
5. **General Interests:** These are interests shared by many nations, such as promoting global peace, ensuring food security, and protecting the environment.
6. **Specific Interests:** These are unique to certain nations. For example, Third World countries emphasize their **Right to Development** to improve their socio-economic conditions.

1.1.5 Q. Methods of Securing National Interest

Sovereign states adopt various methods to safeguard their national interests. Key methods include:

1. **Diplomacy:** Diplomacy involves negotiation, bargaining, and compromise to achieve national goals. It is a peaceful and effective tool for resolving conflicts and fostering cooperation.
2. **Propaganda:** Propaganda uses communication to influence minds, emotions, and actions to gain support for national objectives. With the rise of the internet and social media, states now use these platforms to shape public opinion globally.
3. **Economic Means:** Wealthier nations often use foreign aid, loans, and trade to secure their interests, while poorer nations depend on these resources for technology, industrial goods, and market access. Globalization has made economic exchange a crucial tool for advancing national interests.
4. **Alliances and Treaties:** Agreements between countries, such as NATO or the Warsaw Pact, are formed to achieve shared objectives and provide mutual support in areas like defence and economic cooperation.
5. **Coercive Measures:** States use non-violent means like sanctions, boycotts, and embargoes to exert pressure and achieve their goals. In extreme cases, force or war is used, as seen in the U.S. invasion of Iraq during the War on Terror. However, peaceful approaches are encouraged to maintain international harmony and cooperation.

III. **Balance of Power: Meaning, Nature and Methods**

Q. Meaning of BOP

In International Relations, Balance of Power (BoP) refers to the distribution of power among nations in a way that no single state can dominate or threaten others. When power is balanced, states feel secure, and the chances of conflict decrease. The theory suggests that if one state becomes too powerful, it may attack weaker states. In response, those weaker states often form alliances to counterbalance the threat.

- **Sidney Fay** defines BoP as an equilibrium where no nation is strong enough to dominate others.
- **Inis Claude** describes it as a system where nations manage their power relations without interference from any major power.

The concept of BoP arises because there is no global government to enforce order, leaving states to rely on their own strategies and alliances for security. For example, if a powerful state threatens another, the weaker state may either strengthen its own resources or ally with others to restore balance.

1.1.6 Q. Historical Evolution of the Balance of Power (BoP)

The concept of Balance of Power (BoP) has deep historical roots, tracing back to ancient Greece. **Thucydides**, an Athenian political theorist, argued that BoP creates security within the international system. During the 15th-century Renaissance, the idea was revived among Italian city-states to manage power struggles.

The signing of the **Treaty of Westphalia in 1648** marked a significant milestone, replacing internationalism with a BoP system based on sovereign states. Between **1815 and 1914**, BoP successfully maintained international security until the outbreak of the First World War disrupted this equilibrium.

The interwar period (1919–1939) saw another attempt to restore BoP, but it failed again with the onset of the Second World War. During the **Cold War**, BoP reemerged in the precarious standoff between the communist bloc, led by the USSR, and the capitalist bloc, led by the USA.

Following the **disintegration of the Soviet Union**, the USA emerged as the sole global superpower, ushering in a unipolar world order. However, the rise of powers like **China, India, and others** has shifted the global system toward multipolarity, renewing the relevance of BoP in contemporary international relations.

1.1.7 Q. Nature of Balance of Power (BoP)

1. Temporary and Unstable:

BoP is not permanent, as states frequently shift alliances and strategies to serve their own national interests. This constant realignment makes it unpredictable and fragile.

2. Requires Active Effort:

BoP doesn't occur naturally; it requires deliberate actions by political leaders to build and maintain. Without active intervention, power imbalances are likely to arise.

3. Tested by War:

While BoP aims to prevent war, its breakdown often leads to conflict. War becomes the ultimate test of whether a balance existed or not.

4. Not a Guarantee of Peace:

BoP emerges from an unstable international environment and does not necessarily ensure peace. Instead, it reflects the competition and rivalry among states.

5. Dominated by Big Powers:

Major powers play the central role in creating and maintaining BoP, while smaller states are often passive participants, allies, or victims in the process.

6. Needs Multiple States:

BoP can only exist in a multipolar system where power relations involve several states. A unipolar or bipolar world undermines the concept of BoP.

7. Driven by National Interest:

States prioritize their national interest when engaging in BoP. It is a tool used to maximize security and power rather than promote collective peace.

These characteristics reveal that while BoP is a critical strategy in international relations, its reliance on shifting alliances, active maintenance, and national interests makes it inherently unstable and contentious.

1.1.8 Q. Critical Evaluation of the Balance of Power (BoP)

1.1.8.1 Arguments in Favor of BoP

1. **Source of Stability:** BoP helps maintain stability in the international system by preventing any single state from becoming too powerful. As Fredric Geniz stated, “BoP has many times prevented a war. War breaks out only when any state assumes excessive power.”
2. **Prevents War through Adjustments:** BoP allows for adjustments and realignments among states, reducing the likelihood of conflicts escalating into full-blown wars.
3. **Encourages Bipolarity or Multipolarity:** The participation of multiple states in maintaining balance often results in a stable bipolar or multipolar system, reducing the dominance of any single nation.
4. **Benefits for Smaller States:** Small states benefit from the global stability provided by BoP, enjoying public goods such as international peace, security, and law and order.
5. **Discourages War:** BoP discourages war by ensuring that powerful alliances are countered by equally strong opposition, limiting the power of either side to act unilaterally.
6. **Historically Effective:** From 1815 to 1914, BoP successfully maintained peace in Europe, preventing major wars during this period.

1.1.8.2 Arguments Against BoP

1. **Irrelevance in a Unipolar World:** After the 1990s, BoP lost its relevance as the world became unipolar, with the USA emerging as the hegemon. No group of states has been able to balance the US militarily.
2. **Instills Fear and Insecurity:** BoP fosters fear rather than trust, creating an atmosphere of insecurity among nations rather than genuine peace.

3. **Fragile and Uncertain:** BoP is inherently unstable as it relies on the constant fear of imbalance. Shifts in alliances or power can easily disrupt this precarious arrangement.
4. **Limited Freedom for States:** Nations are often bound by their alliances, restricting their ability to act independently or adjust policies based on changing circumstances.
5. **Peace Based on Fear, Not Morality:** BoP offers a fragile form of peace that is based on the fear of conflict rather than on moral values or the protection of human rights.
6. **Changing State Power:** States are dynamic, with their power fluctuating over time. This variability threatens the delicate balance that BoP seeks to maintain.

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