Introduction to Human Sciences

Political Science: Lecture III

International Relations

- What is International Relations?
- Two Models of Analysis

- Liberalism

- Realism

Liberalism in International Relations

- Makes both normative as well as factual claims
  - Governments should pursue ethical principals (promoting peace, justice, and respect for human rights) (value claim)
  - Human nature (or human psychology) is capable of reason and peaceful, harmonious interaction (factual claims)
- Stress on Interdependence – Events in one corner of the world has effects on other parts of the world e.g.:- Human Migration from Syria, Fall of Lehman Brothers
- Sharing of resources, the provision of humanitarian assistance, the promotion of human rights, the pursuit of ethical standards in foreign policy making, and the curtailment of military power could then be mutually beneficial for governments

Liberalism in International Relations II

- Human Security is important for Governmental Security

- Liberal Institutionalists
  - Economic Cooperation
  - International Organizations
  - Bodies like the UN and EU have come from this position

- Iroquois League is the earliest example (1400s-1700s)
  - Member states retained own customs and traditions
  - Pledged to defend other member states
  - Membership was renewable
  - Participating in the decision making process
  - Taking important decisions pertaining to the League

- These principals remain the defining points of Liberal Institutionalism

Realism in International Relations

- Assumptions
  - Human Nature in Prone to Violence and Destruction
  - Political Behavior is Conflict oriented
- Central Argument
  - Interests of governments are best promoted when governments gain and hold power relative to other states
  - Military and economic power
- Government security is understood primarily as military security, not quality-of-life security
- U.S. involvement in Third World Conflict
  - Realists believe rather than ethical, humanitarian, and cooperative motives, US intervention based on hostility of governments

Realism in International Relations II

- Foreign policy based on strategic military objectives is thoroughly rational choice

- Governments exist in relations of international anarchy

- Anarchic conditions are thus prone to conflict

- Anarchy - absence of any overarching world government that enforces rules of peace on existing governments

- UN is not above the influence of powerful governments and cannot independently make decisions

- Hence, in an anarchic world, states that wish to survive must be powerful or allied to the powerful

- Moral principles take a back seat – E.g. US's position on Terrorism
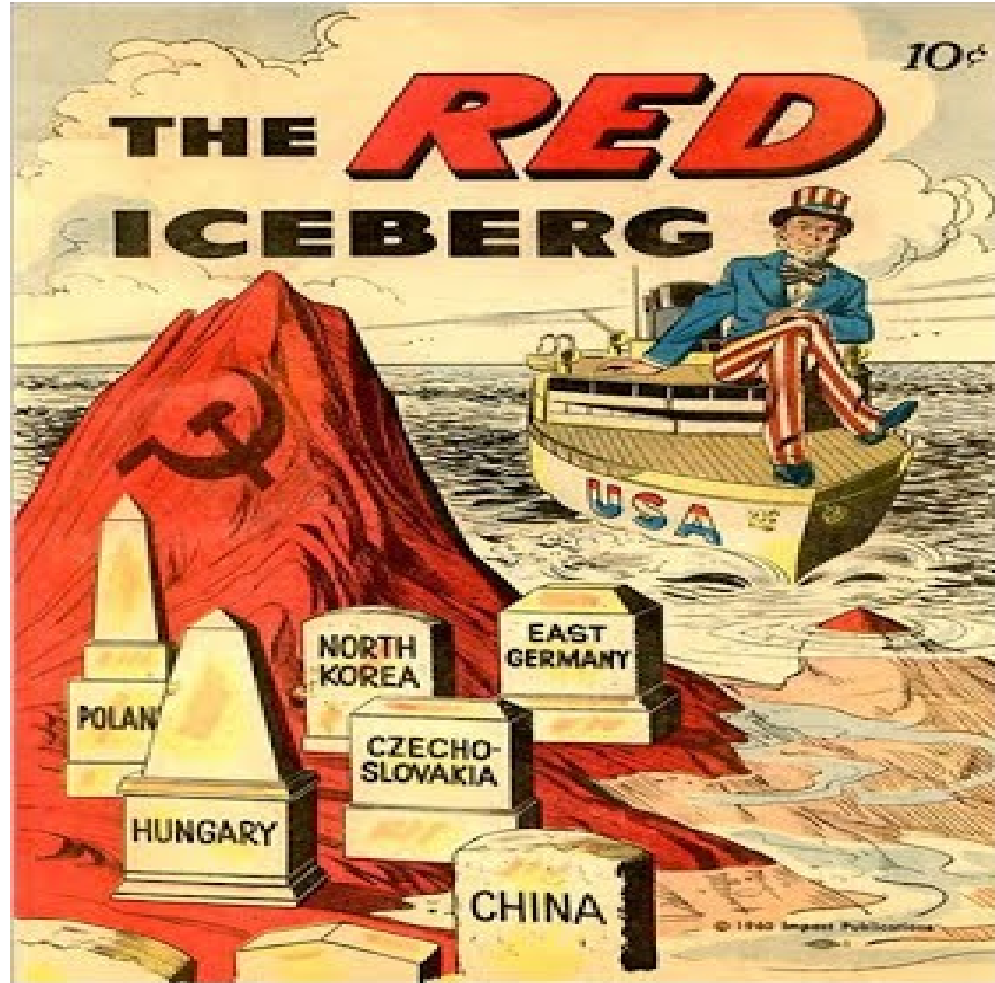
Bipolar Politics

- Emergence of Two superpowers post-World War II
  - US aligned NATO
  - USSR aligned Warsaw Pact
- Era of Cold War
- Support of Third World and Anti-Colonial Movements – Soviet Policy
- Containment of Communism – US policy
  - Need to Control USSR's expansionist policy
  - Truman Doctrine of 1947 – providing aid to such countries which could easily come under the influence of Soviet Union
  - Marshall Plan (1948) – providing economic Aid to European Countries devastated by WWII
  - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (1949)

Bipolar Politics II

- Berlin Wall

- Cuban Missile Crisis

- Vietnam War

- Emergence of China, India, Japan, and Europe as potential superpower entities

- Mikhail Gorbachev – Glasnost and Perestroika (Changes in the Economic Structure)

- Downfall of USSR and end of Cold War

Cold War Propaganda

Cold War Propaganda II

Cold War Propaganda III

Post-Bipolar World System

- Unipolar or Multipolar world?

- An era of instability

  - Break down of Yugoslavia

  - Managing Nuclear Material and Related Security Concerns

- Between 1990 and 2001, more than 50 major violent conflicts ensued

The United Nations

- The charter establishing the UN was created by representatives from 51 governments in 1945.
- Chapter One of the UN Charter suggests that the purposes of the UN include efforts
  - *To promote peace and security*
  - *To support principles of equality and self-governance of all people*
  - *To support human rights, freedom, and justice*
  - *To help governments in pursuit of mutually supportive objectives*
- The charter further calls on member governments
  - to abstain from threats and violence against any other governments
  - to assist the UN in carrying out its purposes,
  - to abstain from aiding any government against which the UN is taking actions

United Nations II

- General Assembly
  - Large body consisting of representatives of all member states
  - Debate and Render advisory recommendations on any matter involving international politics relating to UN purposes
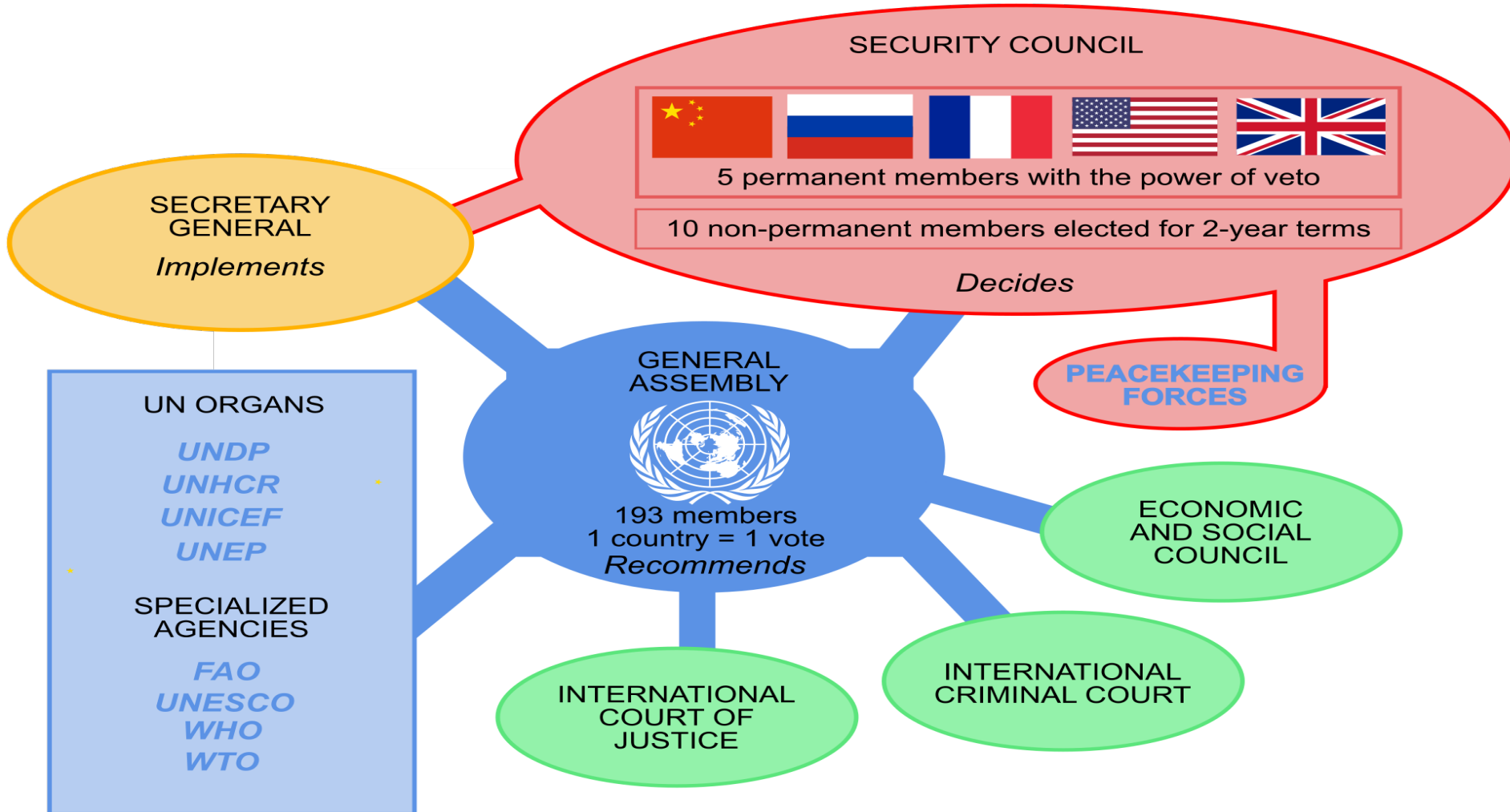 - Cannot enact its own recommendations
- Security Council
  - Five permanent members: the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom
  - Ten other members elected by the General Assembly to 2-year terms
  - Each permanent member has a veto power
  - The SC can enact sanctions against hostile states, call for cease-fire plans in the event of conflict, send peacekeeping forces to a conflict, and to authorize military actions by member states

United Nations III

- The Economic and Social Council
    - 54 member states
    - Oversees UN projects on economic development, human rights, and environmental issues
    - Commission on Population and Development, Commission for Social Development, Commission on Human Rights and Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Commission on the Status of Women etc.
- The International Court of Justice
    - 15 members who serve for 9-year terms
    - Solving Disputed between States e.g. -fishing controversies between Spain and Canada, disputes over crimes of genocide involving Bosnia and Yugoslavia, and disputes between Argentina and Uruguay over the construction of pulp mills in environmentally sensitive areas
- The Secretariat – directed by Secretary General - administering the work of the previous four organs

United Nations at a Glance

UN Intervention – Effective or Not?

- Effectiveness

- Provides a forum for debate and discussion for diverse countries

- Striking a balance between Military and Human Security

- Cooperation with NGOs, provides citizens and social movements an arena for participating in politics beyond the borders of their own countries

- Limitation

- UN, as an organization, is actually in a subordinate relationship relative to states e.g.- troops deployment

- Critics contend that the UN is actually dominated by superpower states, such as the United States e.g.- US's invasion of Iraq

- The Question of State Sovereignty

Contemporary Issues in International Relations

- Are Realism and Liberalism enough to explain issues concerning Sate Relations?
    - Both are State centric approaches
    - Ignore the importance of non-state actors in determining outcomes
- Changing context – International Relations in a fast Globalizing World
- Media and Politics
- Economic Relations and Politics