



international affairs

Realism

• Liberal

Constructivism

COMPETING PARADIGMS	REALISM	LIBERALISM	CONSTRUCTIVISM		
Main Theoretical Proposition	Self-interested states compete constantly for power or security	Concern for power overridden by economic/ political considerations (desire for prosperity, commitment to liberal values)	State behavior shaped by élite beliefs, collective norms, and social identities		
Main Units of Analysis	States	States	Individuals (especially élites)		
Main Instruments	Economic and especially military power	Varies (international institutions, economic exchange, promotion of democracy)	Ideas and discourse		
Modern Theorists	Hans Morgenthau, Kenneth Waltz	Michael Doyle, Robert Keohane	Alexander Wendt, John Ruggie		
Representative Modern Works	Waltz, Theory of International Politics Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War" (International Security, 1990)	Keohane, After Hegemony Fukuyama, "The End of History?" (National Interest, 1989)	Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It" (International Organization, 1992); Koslowski & Kratochwil, "Under- standing Changes in International Politics" (International Organization, 1994)		
Post—Cold War Prediction	Resurgence of overt great power competition	Increased cooperation as liberal values, free markets, and interna- tional institutions spread	Agnostic because it cannot predict the content of ideas		
Main Limitation	Does not account for international change	Tends to ignore the role of power	Better at describing the past than anticipating the future		



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The field of international affairs is "a protracted competition between the realist, liberal, and constructivist traditions."
 - Realism argues that conflict between states is inevitable.
 - Liberal thought focuses on ways of mitigating this tendency towards conflict.
 - Constructivism imagines
 how the entire nation-state
 model is socially
 constructed.



