



IB Global Politics Content and Concepts

A Collaborative Resource

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Development: Content and Concepts

actor

An entity that is capable of taking meaningful action or effecting change at any one of the six levels of analysis. Actors range from us as individuals all the way up to the most powerful states and intergovernmental organisations.



appeasement

A political policy of conceding to aggression by another nation. The most famous example of appeasement relates to Chamberlain's appeasement of Nazi Germany prior to WWII.

authoritarian state

An authoritarian state is one in which political power is concentrated in an institution not accountable to the people of that state (e.g. North Korea or Saudi Arabia).

balance of power

A condition in which no one state predominates over others, tending to create general equilibrium and curb the hegemonic ambitions of all states.

bilateral

A term that refers to relations between two states. Thus, a bilateral agreement is one that is made between two states.

bipolar world order

A global system in which power is concentrated around two nations (or poles). During the Cold War, the United States and Soviet Union formed a bipolar world order.

Bush Doctrine

The doctrine, not always precisely formulated, that preemptive military action, possibly aimed at achieving regime change, should be taken against states thought to be threatening the USA through the development of weapons of mass destruction and/or by harbouring terrorists.

capitalism

The key features of capitalism as an economic system are that it is one in which: the profit motive is the overwhelming motivation for economic activity; property is privately owned; and a free market determines the supply and price of goods.

collective security

The idea or practice of common defence, in which a number of states pledge themselves to defend each other, based on the principle of 'all for one and one for all'. NATO is

colonialism

The process of a state seeking to establish or maintain control over other territories or peoples. This is often with the aim of promoting an economic benefit to the colonising power.

Examples of former colonial powers include Britain and France. The extent to which they are still colonial powers is a matter of debate.

communism

A political system, based on the work of Karl Marx, in which property is publicly owned and each person works and is paid according to their needs and abilities. In reality, pure communism is rare and even states that identify as communist possess some free market traits. Contemporary examples of communist states include Cuba and China.

compellence

A tactic or strategy designed to force an adversary to make concessions against its will through war or the threat of aggression.

constitution

A set of fundamental principles or precedents that set out how a state should be governed. The US constitution, along with various amendments, is one of the best known examples of a written constitution. Not all constitutions are written (e.g. British constitution).

constitutive theory of statehood

A theory that states are only states because they are recognised as such by other states. This is opposed to the declarative theory of statehood.

constructivism

Constructivism is a theory in Global Politics that emphasises the socially constructed nature of international relations.

core (North)

This is a term taken from the core/periphery model which, essentially, argues that the global north is the economic core of the global system as opposed to the economic periphery made up of states from the global south. This model is regarded as outdated by some.

credibility

The willingness of countries to carry through with its use of power such as weapons or resources.

declarative theory of statehood

A theory that states are only states because they meet four criteria: 1) a defined territory; 2) a permanent population; 3) a government and 4) a capacity to enter into relations with other states. This is opposed to the constitutive theory of statehood.

deterrence

Deterrence refers to the principle that a state can be discouraged or *deterred* from acting another state, usually due to the relative military strength of that state. A interesting contemporary case study is that of North Korea and nuclear deterrence.

democratic state



A democratic state is one in which power resides with the people (electorate) and is exercised by them through their elected agents. This is a form of indirect democracy. Theoretically, it is also applicable to direct democracy but, with the exception of referenda, this is rare in the modern global system.

diplomacy

Diplomacy refers to the process by which states manage their international relations. This is almost always carried out by professional diplomats although there are notable exceptions, such as politically appointed ambassadors by the US in some circumstances.

environmentalism

This is a political and ethical movement seeking to protect and improve the quality of the environment through changes to harmful human activity. NGOs such as Greenpeace as well as various green political parties demonstrate a commitment to environmentalism.

external sovereignty

This concept contrasts with internal sovereignty. Internal sovereignty refers to the supreme authority of a state within its territory while external sovereignty means that other states acknowledge the state's internal sovereignty.

European Commission

The European Commission (EC) is one of the institutions of the European Union (EU). It is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding EU treaties and carrying out the day to day business of the union. The EC consists of 28 commissioners drawn from all EU member states.

European Parliament

The European Parliament is one of the institutions of the EU. It is the primary legislative body in the EU whose members are directly elected by national electorates.

European Union

An economic and political union of 28 countries in Europe, many of which also share a common currency. The UK is currently in the process of withdrawing from the European Union. This process is commonly known as Brexit.

executive

The branch of government responsible for putting policies and laws into practical effect. Not to be confused with the other two branches of government, the Judiciary and Legislature.

failed state

While there is no agreed definition of a failed state, we can start from the understanding that a failed state is one in which the government is no longer capable of meeting the basic responsibilities of a sovereign government. Thus, we might consider Syria and Somalia as failed states.

feminism



In simple terms, feminism can be regarded the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of sexual equality. There are several areas of particular interest in relation to the GloPo syllabus including the representation of women in decision making and human rights.

fragile state

Whilst fragile state is a contested concept, the term can be seen to mean a low-income country characterized by weak state legitimacy and/or weak state capacity. The World Bank defines fragile states as: (a) eligible for assistance (i.e., a grant) from the International Development Association (b) has had a UN peacekeeping mission in the last three years, and (c) has received a 'governance' score of less than 3.2 (as per the Country Performance and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) index of The World Bank).

global governance

The movement towards political cooperation amongst transnational actors in order to develop solutions to problems affecting more than one state or region. It is important to note that global governance does not refer a unified global government but may include institutions of global governance such as the World Bank and International Court of Justice.

globalization

A debated term, which can be defined as the increasing interaction of people and states through the increasing interaction of money, ideas and culture.

hegemon

A state that has dominance at either a regional or global level of analysis. Currently, the only global hegemon is the United States although this may change as China becomes more powerful. For further discussion, see work of John Mearsheimer.

high politics

All those aspects of politics and international relations related to the very survival of the state, namely security concerns.

humanitarian intervention

This refers to military intervention in another sovereign state in order to end or prevent a humanitarian crisis such as starvation or genocide. See also R2P (Right To Protect) doctrine.

imperialism

The acquisition of territories by a kingdom, empire or state.

interdependence

This refers to the way in which states, organisations and even individuals are becoming increasingly important in terms of the effect they have on the lives of others. For example, the way in which the recent financial crisis began in the US subprime mortgage industry but spread across the global financial system is a good example of increased interdependence.

intergovernmental organization (IGO)



An IGO is an organization that is made up of different national governments. The United Nations and NATO are examples of IGOs.

internal sovereignty

Internal sovereignty refers to the supreme authority of a state within its territory as opposed to external sovereignty

internationalism

A political principle that advocates greater cooperation between peoples and nations.

interstate war

War between two or more states.

intrastate war

War within a state; also known as a civil war

judiciary

The branch of government responsible for interpreting policies and laws and ruling on their legality or otherwise. Not to be confused with the other two branches of government, the executive and legislative.

jus ad bellum

From Just War Theory meaning the conditions by which it is considered just to go to war.

jus in bellum

From Just War Theory meaning the conditions governing just conduct in waging war.

jus post bellum

From Just War Theory referring to the conditions relating to justice after the conclusion of a war and during the peacebuilding process.

League of Nations

Set up after WWI and widely regarded as the predecessor to the United Nations. Whilst not as effective as its founders intended, it was significant in that it was one of the first IGOs to truly promote multilateralism as a means of conflict avoidance/resolution.

legitimacy

Legitimacy is related to the concept of authority. However, where authority refers to the accepted power of an individual in a position, legitimacy refers to the legitimisation of power by the government.

legislative

The branch of government responsible for creating laws.

liberalism



A theory of international relations that emphasises the interdependence between states and other actors in the global political system. Liberalism is one of the two most common theories (along with structural realism) that attempts to explain why states and other actors act in the way they do.

low politics

As opposed to high politics, this refers to all aspects of politics not related to the very survival of the state.

mandate

The authority to carry out a particular course of action as given to a political party during an election by the electorate.

Marxism

The political and economic theories originally developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels that consider capitalism as exploitative and based on unequal class relations between the bourgeoisie and proletariat.

Montevideo Convention (1933)

Conference at which the declarative theory of statehood was accepted as part of customary international law. The convention sets out the definition, rights and duties of statehood.

multilateral

Multilateral is a term that refers to relations between more than two states. Thus, a multilateral agreement is one that is made between three or more states. Equally, states that act multilaterally act along with at least two other states.

Multinational corporation (MNC)

A multinational corporation is a business organisation that operates in more than one state. MNCs have been criticised for the undue amount of influence they are able to wield, particularly in poorer states. The case of Philip Morris vs. Togo is a good example.

multipolar world order

A global system in which power is concentrated around more than two nations (or poles).

nation

A community that shares common cultural and linguistic traits. Not be confused with nation-state, we might consider the Kurdish people of Syria, Iraq and Turkey to be a nation.

nation-state

A nation which inhabits a clearly defined territory and can be said to be one in which the cultural boundaries match the political boundaries. The development of the nation-state can be traced back to the Peace of Westphalia at the conclusion of the 30 Years War in Europe.

national interest



The interest of a nation as whole. Realists argue that states will always pursue their own national interest, challenging the rationale for cooperation and interdependence put forward by liberals.

nationalism

The political principle based on promoting the interests of a particular nation. As opposed to internationalism.

neoconservatism

Neoconservatives typically advocate the promotion of democracy and national interest in international affairs, including by means of military force and are known for espousing disdain for communism and for political radicalism.

non-governmental organization (NGO)

Non-Governmental Organisations are independent of government and seek to influence policy or achieve an aim through a combination of lobbying and direct action. Examples of NGOs include Amnesty International and the International Rescue Committee. NGOs can be domestic or international in focus.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO is made up of 29 member states, all of whom are signatories to the North Atlantic Treaty (1949). NATO is an organization based on the principle of collective self defence whereby an attack on one member is treated as an attack on all (Article 5). So far, the only time Article 5 has been triggered has been in response to the 9/11 attacks in the USA.

Paris Peace Settlements (1919-20)

The meetings held between the victors of WWI held in order to set peace terms and reparations for the defeated states. The result is known as the Treaty of Versailles and many have argued the harshness of the terms contributed to start of WWII.

periphery (South)

This is a term taken from the core/periphery model which argues that the global north is the economic core of the global system as opposed to the economic periphery made up of states from the global south. This model is regarded as outdated by some.

polarity

Polarity refers to the way in which power is distributed in global politics. We can distinguish between unipolar, bipolar, and multipolar international systems.

power

Power can be seen as ability to effect change in the world and, rather than being viewed as a unitary or independent force, is as an aspect of relations among people functioning within a social organization.

power politics



A form of international relations in which states protect their own interests by threatening others with aggression, whether political, economic or military.

prisoner's dilemma

The prisoner's dilemma is a standard example of a game analyzed in game theory that shows why two completely "rational" individuals might not cooperate, even if it appears that it is in their best interests to do so.

radicalism

A political principle focusing on altering social structures through revolutionary means.

ratified

Ratification is the process by which a state signatory to a treaty approves the treaty through a domestic legislative process.

rational actor

Rational actor describes the quality of most people at most times to aim towards maximising their own interests rather than acting against their own self-interest. Put simply, actors whether states or individuals, will act in a way that benefits their own interests. Thus, Kim Jong-un can be argued to be rational in promoting nuclear development in North Korea.

realism

Realism is a theory of international relations. This means it attempts to explain why states act in a particular way. It is important to distinguish between structural realism, both offensive and defensive, which argue the nature of the international system is the main determinant of behaviour (see *Mearsheimer et. al.*) and classical realism which focuses more on human nature and the natural desire for power amongst political actors and leaders.

realpolitik

This is a German phrase that refers to politics and political decision making that is based on practical considerations rather than on a moral or ideological basis.

referendum

A referendum is a vote in which the entire electorate is invited to vote on a single question or issue. Referenda are used more frequently in some countries than others (e.g. Switzerland)
An example of a recent referendum would be Brexit in the UK.

resolution

A resolution can either refer to the statement put forward for debate in a legislative body or, more commonly, a written motion adopted by that body. Thus, a UNSC resolution is a statement or course of action agreed by members of the UN Security Council.

responsible sovereignty

The principle that states should not only protect their own people but should cooperate across borders to protect global resources and tackle transnational threats.

**Responsibility to Protect (R2P)**

R2P is a global commitment endorsed by all UN member states at the 2005 World Summit which is based on the idea that sovereignty involves a responsibility to protect all populations from mass atrocities and human rights violations. R2P is often used as a justification for humanitarian intervention in another state.

sanctions

Sanctions are actions taken by states, either unilaterally or in conjunction with others, against other states for political reasons. Sanctions can be classified as diplomatic, economic and military amongst others. A contemporary example of sanctions are those currently in place targeting North Korea.

semi-periphery

Semi-periphery refers to the industrializing countries situated between the core and periphery in the model advocated by world system theorists such as Wallerstein.

separation of powers

The separation of powers is a model of state governance whereby government is divided into three branches - executive, legislature and judiciary - in order to provide a system of checks and balances and prevent the concentration of power solely with one branch of government. In reality, government in modern states is usually more complicated than this model suggests.

social movement

Large, often informal, groupings of both individuals and organisations with the aim of carrying out, resisting or undoing social change. There is no agreed definition of what constitutes a social movement but Black Lives Matter and the Occupy movement are both good examples.

socialism

A theory that advocates for collective ownership and democratic control of the means of production. Policies such as nationalised railways are examples of socialist policies.

sovereignty

The full right and power of a governing body over itself without interference from outside bodies. This concept underpins the Westphalian model of nation states but it can be argued - and is by liberal theorists - that true sovereignty is impossible to achieve in an increasingly globalised world system.

state

An organised political entity with a permanent population, a well defined territory and a government.

stateless nation

A community sharing cultural and/or linguistic traits that is not found within the boundaries of one nation-state.

**structural power**

Power as mainly related to the establishment of structures, or the control over structures, in international relations. Susan Strange defines structural power as the power “to decide how things shall be done, the power to shape frameworks within which states relate to each other, relate to people, or relate to corporate enterprises” .

superpowers

States that have achieved a hegemonic position in one or more aspects of global politics. Many theorists argue that the US is currently the world’s only superpower.

supranational

Refers to any quality, principle or organisation that transcends national boundaries or governments.

terrorism

The unlawful use of force, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. It is worth noting that both the Reagan and Thatcher administrations in the US and UK considered the ANC a terrorist organisation, yet Nelson Mandela was Honorary President of the UWC movement.

treaty

An agreement, under international law, entered into by actors in the global system, generally states and organisations.

Treaty of Westphalia (1648)

The Treaty of Westphalia concluded the 30 Years War and is cited as the starting point for the development of the nation-state.

unilateralism

A state acting alone without reference to other states. Many states will attempt to avoid working unilaterally, if possible, in order to keep the international community on side. Thus, George W. Bush went to great lengths to build a ‘coalition of the willing’ before military action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

unipolar world order

A global system in which power is concentrated around one nation (or pole). Many theorists argue that the current world order, with the US as global hegemon, is unipolar although this is a matter of debate.

United Nations (UN)

Developed as a replacement for the League of Nations, the UN is an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) with the aim of promoting international cooperation and to create, and maintain, international order. All undisputed independent nations (with the exception of Vatican City) are members of the UN and there are currently 193 full members. The Holy See and Palestine hold non-member observer status. The UN is the biggest and arguably most influential IGO globally.

**UN Security Council (UNSC)**

One of the six principal organs of the UN, the UNSC is made up of 15 members. 10 states are elected on a rotating basis and the five permanent members (China, USA, UK, France and Russia) hold the power of veto over the decision making process.

UN General Assembly (UNGA)

The General Assembly is the primary deliberative organ of the UN, at which all member states are represented, and meets once a year in New York. It is the only UN organ at which all states are represented equally.

Human Rights: Content and Concepts

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

Also known as the Banjul (Gambia) Charter, it is an international human rights instrument intended to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in the African continent. It emerged under the support of the Organization of African Unity (since replaced by the African Union) which adopted a resolution in 1979 calling for the creation of a committee of experts to draft a continent-wide human rights instrument, similar to those that already existed in Europe (European Convention on Human Rights) and the Americas (American Convention on Human Rights). The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights came into effect in 1986.

African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights

The Commission is responsible for the oversight and interpretation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. A protocol to the Charter was subsequently adopted in 1998, whereby an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was to be created. In July 2004, the AU Assembly decided that the ACHP would be incorporated into the African Court of Justice. The relationship between the newly created Court and the Commission is yet to be determined. As of 2013, 53 states have ratified the Charter (every AU member state except South Sudan).

Amnesty International

Non-governmental organisation formed in 1961 that campaigns for human rights and has approximately seven million members worldwide.

apartheid

A crime against humanity. Apartheid in South Africa refers to a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race. This system of institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination existed in South Africa between 1948 and 1991.

asylum

Protection from political persecution granted by a state to an individual from another state. Within the international community, asylum-seekers are those who have applied for protection as a refugee but are still awaiting confirmation of their status.

Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) issued the Cairo Declaration in 1990, asserting that "fundamental rights and universal freedoms in Islam are an integral part" of Islam. Rule 24 holds that all rights and freedoms stipulated in the declaration are subject to Islamic (shariah) law.

codification

To arrange and label a system of laws (i.e., write them down). To transfer ideas into laws. For example, a treaty is signed by an authorized person (i.e., a Foreign Minister of country agrees to join a defense organization) and then treaty provisions are later written (codified) into laws for the respective country and passed by the national legislature. All of the treaty



provisions can be agreed to (codified) or just some of the provisions can become domestic law.

Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading treatment (1984)

A human rights treaty which builds on the UDHR and the ICPRC. It offers specific definitions of torture and the responsibilities for preventing torture.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

A human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen. There are currently 195 countries that have ratified the convention, and their compliance is monitored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. There are 54 articles.

Crimes Against Humanity

Defined as widespread or systematic murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts intentionally committed against civilian populations, before or during the war; or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds in execution of or in connection with any crime.

cultural relativism

The principle that an individual person's beliefs and activities should be understood by others in terms of that individual's own culture; an argument against the universality of human rights.

customary international law

Law that becomes binding on states although it is not written, but rather adhered to out of custom. Thus a practice that is so long established and widely accepted that it has come to have the force of law.

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The United Nations Economic and Social Council is responsible for promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress; identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems; facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation; encouraging universal respect.

equality

Egalitarian theories are based on a concept of equality that all people, or groups of people, are seen as having the same intrinsic value. Equality is therefore closely linked to justice and fairness, as egalitarians argue that justice can only exist if there is equality. Increasingly, with growing polarization within societies, equality is also linked to liberty, as different people have differing possibilities to be free and autonomous.

European Convention on Human Rights (1950)

The first regional agreement on human rights. A binding legal texts, which member states of the Council of Europe are committed to act in accordance with.



European Court of Human Rights

Regional court which upholds the European Convention on Human Rights, established in 1959. The European Court of Human Rights acts as the final court of appeal of last resort once European citizens have exhausted their own state's legal process.

First Generation Human Rights

Focus on the civil and political rights that protect individuals' liberty from the state. They are predominantly negative rights. Civil rights are rights that belong to a citizen by virtue of being a citizen of particular country, including protection from racial discrimination. Political rights are rights that allow citizens to participate in politics, for example by voting and having the freedom to demonstrate and join political parties.

genocide

Violent crimes committed against groups with the intent to destroy the existence of the group. It was coined and first used in 1944 by Polish lawyer Raphael Lemkin, who documented Nazi policies of systematically destroying national and ethnic groups, including the mass murder of European Jews. More modern examples include the Sudanese government's policies against Darfuri civilians (2003), violence from the Hutus against the Tutsi minority in Rwanda (1994) and the Yazidi genocide by ISIL (2014-2017).

humanitarian intervention

A state's use of military force against another state when the chief publicly declared aim of that military action is ending human-rights violations being perpetrated by the state against which it is directed. This often involves a state carrying out its own political interests and necessitates and infringement on another state's sovereignty. However, this can serve to uphold and protect human rights in corrupt states. Examples include Operation Iraqi Liberation (2003) and UN involvement in Somalia (Apr 1992- Dec 1992, Mar 1993-1995).

human rights

Human rights are basic claims and entitlements that one possesses simply by virtue of being a human being. Many contemporary thinkers argue they are essential for living a life of dignity, are inalienable, and should be accepted as universal. These rights do not have boundaries of sex, gender or nationality, and can be claimed individually or in groups. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN in 1948 is recognized as the beginning of the formal discussion of human rights around the world. Critics argue that human rights are a Western, or at least culturally relative, concept. Human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions by governments that interfere with fundamental freedoms and human dignity. Human rights law obliges governments to do some things and prevents them from doing others. The following are some of the most frequently cited characteristics of human rights: 1) Internationally guaranteed, 2) Legally protected, 3) Focus on the dignity of the human being, 4) Protect individuals and groups, 5) Oblige States and State actors, 6) Cannot be waived or taken away, 7) Equal and interdependent, 8) Universal.

Human Rights Watch



A non-governmental organization based out of New York that conducts research and advocacy on human rights. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are the only two Western-oriented international human rights organizations operating in most situations of severe oppression or abuse worldwide.

inalienable

Closely related to the concept of indivisibility, human rights are considered to be inalienable. This means that they cannot be taken away from (or given away by) human beings, and all human beings are entitled to the full package of rights.

indivisible

Indivisibility means that all human rights are of equal importance and cannot be arranged into a hierarchy. All human rights must be protected for all human beings. Governments are not permitted to pick and choose some rights over others and may not decide that some rights to not apply to certain individuals or groups. For example, freedom of religions cannot be said to be unimportant and not applied. Human rights in the Universal Declaration come as a full package, to be protected equally.

interdependent

Human rights are said to be interdependent because successful protection of one human right helps with the protection of others. Similarly, the denial of one human right will act as a barrier to the effective protection of other human rights. For example, a strong judicial system is likely to universally protect the right to a fair and effective hearing. This then protects other rights, such as freedom from arbitrary detention and arrest. If a government allows arbitrary detention (for example in case of terrorist suspects) the following rights are at risk: human right to freedom from arbitrary detention; equality before the law; right to a fair and effective hearing.

Internally displaced people (IDP)

People forced to move from their home who are still located within the state (as opposed to refugees who have crossed the border into another state). Armed conflict, natural disasters, famine, development and economic changes may all be causes of displacement. There were a reported 38 million IDP by the end of 2014, with 2.2M in Iraq and 7.6M in Syria (40% of its population).

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)

Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. It aims to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women; to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises. It is the only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)

A convention signed by the UN General Assembly which focuses on eliminating racial discrimination, including outlawing hate speech.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations. Its role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by states and to give advisory opinions on legal questions. It is sometimes known as the World Court.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - 1966 (ICCPR)

A multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 that commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial. Currently, it has 74 signatories and 168 parties. It is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The ICCPR is monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - 1966 (ICESCR)

A multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 that commits its parties to work toward the granting of economic, social, and cultural rights to the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories and individuals, including labour rights and the right to health, the right to education, and the right to an adequate standard of living. As of 2015, the Covenant has 164 parties. The Covenant is monitored by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

An international tribunal formed in 2002 for the prosecution of crimes against humanity. Headquartered in The Hague, the ICC is not affiliated with the United Nations. The ICC came into effect as a result of the Rome Statute (1998). Currently 124 states have ratified the Rome Statute and are therefore members of the ICC. Countries that have not ratified the Rome Statute and therefore are not accountable to the ICC include China, Israel, USA, Kuwait, India, Indonesia, Iraq and Pakistan. The ICC has been accused of disproportionately targeting Africans for prosecution.

International humanitarian law

A set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. It does not regulate whether a state may actually use force; this is governed by an important, but distinct, part of international law set out in the United Nations Charter.

justice

There are a number of different interpretations of the concept of justice. It is often closely associated with the idea of fairness and with individuals getting what they deserve, although what is meant by desert is also contested. One avenue is to approach justice through the idea of rights, and what individuals can legitimately expect of one another or of their government. Some theorists also argue that equality not only in the institutions and procedures of a society but also in capabilities or well-being outcomes is required for justice to be realized.

liberty

The concept of liberty refers to having freedom and autonomy. It is often divided into positive and negative liberty, with negative liberty defined as individuals having the freedom from external coercion and positive liberty defined as individuals having the autonomy to carry out their own rational will. Some scholars reject this distinction and argue that in practice, one form of liberty cannot exist without the other. It is also questioned if such an understanding of liberty is sufficient for an interdependent world, in which the seeming freedom and autonomy of some may depend on lack of some forms of liberty for others. Hence, debates on equality inform our understanding of liberty as well.

negative rights

Rights that do not require intervention by an outside agency. These include the right to live, the absence of torture, community control of the community and the individuals who live with them and self-determination. These rights are most often applied to liberty rights. Rights considered negative rights may include civil and political rights such as freedom of speech, life, private property, freedom from violent crime, freedom of religion, habeas corpus, a fair trial, freedom from slavery.

positive rights

Referring to rights that are protected by authority, both local and global, and include goods and services that allow people to survive, such as education, protection from harm, places to live and care. The "positive" in positive rights refers to the fact that to satisfy these rights, other people must provide them. They require action from others, instead of inaction. A "right" to health care is such a right.

progressive realization

The United Nations places an obligation of progressive realization (the process of achieving something) upon states with respect to second-generation rights. This means that the UN recognizes that realization of these rights can be hampered by a lack of resources and can be achieved only over a period of time. Consequently, states' compliance with second-generation rights takes into account the resources available and the progress that states are making towards full protection of the rights.

refugees

People who have been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. According to the UNHCR: "Refugees are people fleeing conflict or persecution. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk."

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

The expression “responsibility to protect” was first presented in the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), set up by the Canadian government in December 2001. The Commission had been formed in response to Kofi Annan’s question of when the international community must intervene for humanitarian purposes. Its report, “The Responsibility to Protect”, found that sovereignty not only gave a State the right to “control” its affairs, it also conferred on the State primary “responsibility” for protecting the people within its borders. It proposed that when a state fails to protect its people - either through lack of ability or a lack of willingness - that responsibility shifts to the broader international community.

Rome Statute (1998)

The treaty that established the ICC. It was adopted in 1998 and entered into force in 2002. As of 2013, 122 states will be party to the statute. Among other things, the statute establishes the court’s functions, jurisdiction and structure. The Rome Statute established four core international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Under the Rome Statute, the ICC can only investigate and prosecute the four core international crimes in situations where states are “unable” or “unwilling” to do so themselves. The court has jurisdiction over crimes only if they are committed in the territory of a State party or if they are committed by a national of a State party; an exception is that ICC may also have jurisdiction over crimes if the UN Security Council authorizes its jurisdiction.

Second Generation Human Rights

Based on the principles of social justice and public obligation these rights seek to provide protection for humanity’s neediest people by providing relief to the less fortunate. They can be classified as “social” or “economic” rights and include such rights as the right to just and favorable conditions of work, the right to equal work for equal pay, the right to rest and leisure as an employee, the right to reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic paid holidays and the right to free elementary education.

social contract

The idea that individuals give up their freedom in society to an authority in exchange for the protections of their individual rights.

stateless persons

Someone who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law.

Third Generation Human Rights

Rights of groups to protect their interests and identities. An individual has the right to be a member of a group and neither the individual nor the group can be discriminated against. Third generation rights have shifted focus from individual persons (first generation rights) and communities in which they live (social, economic and cultural rights), to the natural world, i.e., the right to a clean and healthy environment, and the right to species biodiversity. These rights recognize that people have the right to live in a safe and healthy environment and



that groups of people have the right to cultural, political and economic development.

UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)

Protocol adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 which has since been signed by 170 parties. The protocol commits ratifying states to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking and promoting cooperation among states in order to meet those objectives.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Appointed official of the United Nations who leads efforts to uphold international human rights.

UN Human Rights Council

Part of the United Nations responsible for monitoring and upholding international human rights established in 2006. It replaced the UN Commission of Human Rights which was repeatedly criticized for the composition of its membership. In particular, several member countries themselves had dubious human rights records, including States who had been elected to chair the commission.

universal

A universal feature or characteristic – something that everyone has or should have access to in equal parts. In terms of HR, the principle that rights should be available to all, according to need, and not restricted by individual ability to pay or socioeconomic circumstances in society.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Commonly seen as a form of customary international law, the declaration was issued in 1948 and is often used as a tool to apply diplomatic and moral pressure to governments. It consists of 31 articles outlining the principles of human rights but is not a legally binding treaty. The Declaration challenged states' exclusive jurisdiction over their own citizens and weakened the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs.

war crimes

Inhumane acts against civilians who are not enemy nationals. Examples include wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, and the wanton destruction and appropriation of property not justified by military necessity.

Development: Content and Concepts

absolute poverty

Absolute poverty is a term conceived by the UN in 1995 to refer to a condition of severe deprivation of basic needs including food, safe water, sanitation, health facilities, shelter, education and information. It is not only contingent on income but also access to services. The reduction of absolute poverty was the first of the MDGs.

advanced economy

Advanced economy is a term used by the IMF to describe countries with a high GDP/capita, a significant degree of industrialization and advanced technological infrastructure.

anthropocene

The anthropocene is a proposed epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on the Earth's geology and ecosystems. This proposal is based on the evidence that the Earth's system processes, including atmospheric, geologic, hydrologic and biospheric, are now significantly altered by human activity.

Asian Tigers

The term Asian Tigers refers to Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan, four countries that maintained incredibly high economic growth rates between the 1960s and 1990s. This growth was fueled by exports and rapid industrialization and allowed them to become some of the world's wealthy economies.

Bretton Woods Conference (1944)

The Bretton Woods Conference, officially the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, was a meeting of delegates from 44 nations to establish the international monetary and financial order after WWII. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund were established from this meeting.

BRICS

BRICS is an acronym for a group of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. These five countries comprise over 40% of the world's population and have a 30% share of the world GDP.

capitalism

Capitalism is an economic system centered on the private ownership of the means of production and distribution for profit. The production of goods and services is based on supply and demand in the free market.

circular economy

A circular economy is one in which resources are kept in use for the maximum possible amount of time, encouraging sustainability. Rather than a linear economy of production, use and disposal, a circular economy will recycle products back into new products through the recovery and regeneration of materials at the end of their service life.

civil society

Civil society is the term used to refer to social relations and organizations outside of the state or government.

commodity

A commodity is an economic good or service.

conditionality

Conditionality is the attachment of conditions to loans, aid or debt relief. SAPs are an example of conditionality in that certain policies had to be adopted in order to be eligible for financing.

Copenhagen Accord (2009)

The Copenhagen Accord was signed at COP15 and provided explicit pledges by all major economies to reduce emissions. It did not, however, provide a binding pathway towards meeting commitments.

corruption

Corruption is unethical or dishonest conduct by a person in a position of authority, often for personal gain.

cultural globalization

Cultural globalization is the increasing transfer of ideas, values and culture through increasing global interconnectedness. The Internet, travel and media have fuelled the spread of information, allowing people to extend their social relationships.

decolonization

Decolonization is the undoing of colonialism by granting independence and sovereignty to previously colonized nations.

development

Development is a sustained increase in the standard of living and well-being of a level of social organization. Many consider it to involve increased income; better access to basic goods and services; improvements in education, healthcare and public health; well-functioning institutions; decreased inequality; reduced poverty and unemployment; and more sustainable production and consumption patterns.

Doha Development Round

The Doha Development Round was a trade negotiation round of the WTO, which started in 2001. The objective of the round was to lower trade barriers around the world in order to facilitate more global trade.

EAGLEs

EAGLEs stands for emerging and growth-leading economies. The EAGLE economies are expected to lead global growth over the coming decade.



Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The United Nations ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN and it is responsible for the coordination of the economic, social and related work of specialized agencies.

economic development

Economic development refers to the development of a country's economy through greater industrialization and growth of GDP. Traditionally, development was measured primarily in economic terms.

economic globalization

Economic globalization refers to the process whereby all national economies have, to a certain extent, been absorbed into an interlocking global economy.

First World

First World is generally understood to refer to developed, capitalist, industrial countries. The term originated during the Cold War to refer to countries aligned with NATO as opposed to the Soviet Union.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

FDI is the investment in one country by individuals or companies based entirely in another country. This can be through the establishment of business operations or the acquisition of business assets in the other country. FDI involves the foreign investor having ownership or majority control of the investment.

G8

The Group of Eight (G8) refers to an intergovernmental political forum made up of eight highly industrialized economies. The members are the United States, Japan, Russia, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Canada. Russia was suspended in 2014.

Gini coefficient

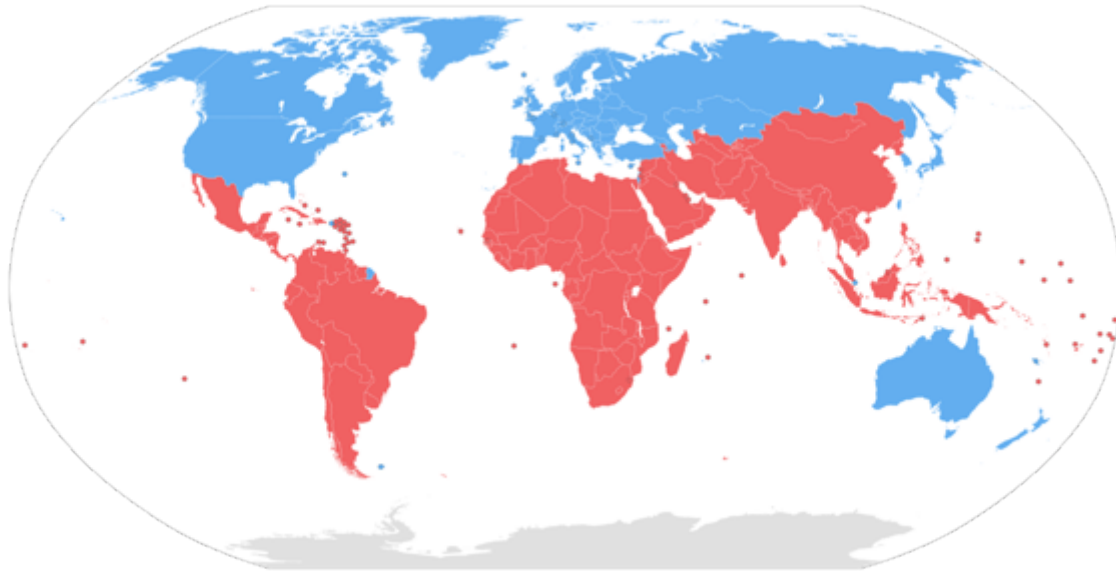
The Gini Coefficient is a statistical method of modelling and graphing the extent of wealth inequality in a society. It measures the difference between the incomes of the richest and poorest, and how many people earn how much along the spectrum. The Gini Coefficient is expressed as a number between 0 and 1, with 0 being perfect equality. The Gini coefficient is used to complement the picture provided by GDP per capita.

globalization

Globalization is the increased interaction and interconnectedness of people, economies and states through the growth in international trade, and flow of ideas and culture.

Global north and south

The Global north (in blue) and south (in red) are terms increasingly used in postcolonial studies to refer to developed and developing countries respectively. The North-South divide is generally considered to be both a socio-economic and political divide.

**Gross National Income (GNI)**

Gross National Income is the value of total domestic and foreign output claimed by residents of a country, including incomes earned abroad, minus incomes earned in the domestic economy by non-residents.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product is the value of all final goods and services produced in a country in one year. GDP gives a good idea of the size of a country's economy as it measures income and growth. It does not take into account any other possible metrics of development.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita

GDP per capita is the total value of all final goods and services produced in a country in one year divided by the population of the country. This calculation gives an average income per person. If GDP per capita is increasing it indicates that the economy is growing. However, this measure does not consider equality of income.

Happy Planet Index (HPI)

The Happy Planet Index combines four elements (life expectancy, experienced well-being, inequality of outcomes and ecological footprint) to show how efficiently residents of different countries are using environmental resources to lead long, happy lives.

Heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC)

The HIPC are a group of developing countries with high levels of poverty and debt which are able to access special assistance from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The HIPC initiative was started in 1996 and was designed to ensure that the poorest countries are not overwhelmed by the debt burdens they carry. Eligible countries can receive some debt relief.

human development

Human development, a concept put forward by Mahbub ul Haq, is defined as the process of expanding people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. It is an



approach to development that goes beyond economic metrics to ensure that people, as well as economies, are seeing progress and improvement.

**Human Development Index (HDI)**

The Human Development Index is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education and income per capita. It ranks countries into four tiers of human development. The HDI reveals national priorities in terms of combining economic progress with social development. It also projects potential growth by accounting for future dividends in education investment. The data also provides breakdowns of disparities between people on the basis of gender, income, geographical region and ethnicity.

Human Development Report

The Human Development Report is published annually by the UNDP to measure and analyze development. The metric used for measurement is the Human Development Index.

import substitution model

Import substitution industrialization (ISI) is an economic policy that prioritizes the production of goods in the domestic market rather than importing them from other countries. ISI looks to reduce dependency on other countries, increase self-sufficiency and boost local industrial processes.

Inclusive Wealth Index (IWI)

The Inclusive Wealth Index (IWI) is a measure of development that seeks to offset the problems of the social, economic and environmental aspects of development. The IWI measures a countries wealth using three parameters. These are progress, well-being and long-term sustainability.

Inequality

Inequality refers to a state of affairs where equality between people or groups of people is not realized and the consequent potential compromises of justice and liberty. Inequality often manifests itself through unequal access to resources that are needed to sustain life and develop individuals and communities. Consequently, the concept is closely connected to discussions of power and of who holds the rights to these resources and their proceeds. Inequality can be examined both as a phenomenon within and between societies.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund, born out of the Bretton Woods Conference, is an international organization which seeks to foster global monetary cooperation, facilitate trade, reduce poverty and secure financial stability. The IMF provides developing nations with financing and policy advice to help them achieve economic stability.

Kyoto Protocol (1997)

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It commits the parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. It was the first international agreement in which many of the world's industrial nations committed to greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

LEDC

LEDC stands for less economically developed country. LEDCs are generally characterized by low GDP/capita, less robust economies focused on the production of raw materials, low levels of industrialization and minimal advanced technological infrastructure.

Marshall Plan (1948)

The European Recovery Program, or Marshall Plan, was an American economic recovery initiative to assist in the rebuilding of Western Europe after WWII. The plan was designed to rehabilitate the economies of 17 Western European countries through massive capital investment.

MEDC

MEDC stands for more economically developed country. It refers to countries with a high GDP/capita, highly developed economy, advanced technological infrastructure and high levels of industrialization.

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight targets agreed to by 189 countries at the the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000. The MDGs set clear targets and deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people. The aim of the MDGs was to see all goals achieved by 2015.



MINTs

MINT is an acronym coined by the investment firm Fidelity in 2011 for the countries Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey, which are expected to show strong economic growth and high return for investors over the coming decade.

Neo-colonialism

Neo-colonialism refers to control of LEDCs through indirect means including economic, political and cultural pressures.

Neoliberalism

Neoliberalism refers to the ideology and policies that emphasize the value of *laissez-faire* (free-market) economics as the most effective means of allocating resources. This includes the transfer of economic factors from the public to private sector, limiting subsidies and reforming the taxation system.

odious debt

Odious debt, also referred to as illegitimate debt, is an international legal term that refers to national debt that is incurred for reasons that do not benefit, or may even harm, the population of the country. Legal doctrine holds that odious debt should not be enforceable.

OECD

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1961 to promote economic progress and global trade. It seeks to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people. There are 35 member countries.

Official Development Assistance

Official development assistance (ODA), a term coined by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, is defined as government aid designed to promote economic development and welfare in developing countries. It excludes loans and credits for military purposes.

Paris Agreement (2015)

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that sets a global action plan to limit global warming within 2 degrees Celsius. The agreement has been signed by all countries, with the exception of the United States, which has withdrawn. All countries agree to work to limit global temperature rise through greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance. It is a historic agreement in terms of its scope.

PIGS

PIGS is an acronym for the economies of the Southern European countries Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain. The term was first used in the 1990s, during the increased integration of the EU economies, to reference the economic vulnerability and growing debt of these countries. The term is generally considered derogatory.

political globalization

Political globalization refers to the increasing number of intergovernmental organizations with a global scope. The United Nations is the largest such body. These organizations are part of a growing trend towards multilateralism and play a role in politics which transcend state borders. These organizations can also act as “watchdogs” over state governments.

privatization

Privatization is the transfer of ownership from the government to the private sector.

protectionism

Protectionism refers to actions or policies that restrict international trade, with the intention of protecting domestic jobs and markets. Such actions and policies may include tariffs on imports, restrictive quotas and subsidies on local production.

Quality of life

Quality of life refers to the general well being of individuals. It includes physical and mental health, economic and physical security, education, the environment and culture. Quality of life is a largely subjective measurement.

relative poverty

Relative poverty is the condition in which individuals do not have the minimum income needed to sustain the average standard of living in their society. Relative poverty is measured in relation to the overall distribution of income in a given country.

remittances

Remittances are transfers of money from individuals outside their home country to someone in the home country. Remittances are one of the largest sources of financial inflows in many developing countries, with migrant workers sending money home to family members.

Second World

Second World refers to the former Eastern bloc; former communist-socialist, industrial states.

socialism

Socialism is a political and economic theory that advocates that the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole. In Marxist theory socialism refers to the transitional stage between capitalism and the realization of communism.

socio-political development

Socio-political development is the process through which individuals gain knowledge, skills and capacity for political and social action to resist oppression and participate in political systems. Socio-political development expands on concepts of empowerment and social change and activism.

standard of living

Standard of living refers to the level of wealth, material goods and necessities available to people. Standard of living is a measure of material welfare and is more easily quantified than the related concept of quality of life.

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAPs)

SAPs are the economic policy reforms on which loans from the IMF and World Bank were made contingent. SAPs entailed liberalizing economies, opening trade and minimizing public spending.

subsidies

Subsidies are transfers of money from the government to an entity. It is a form of financial aid or support given to an economic sector, often with the aim of promoting economic or social policy. Examples of types of subsidies include tax allowances, duty rebates, grants and soft loans.

sustainability

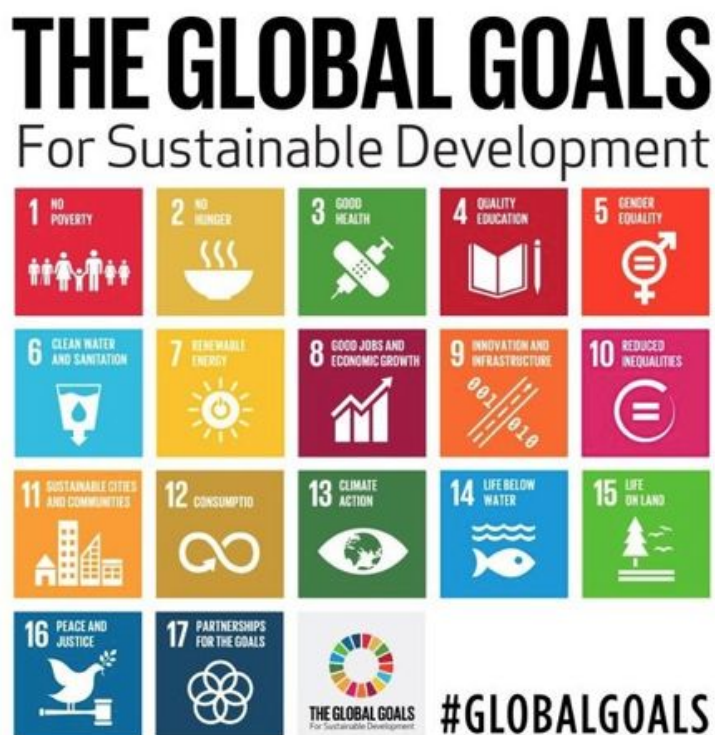
Sustainability implies that current needs should be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

sustainable development

Sustainable development is development (that is a sustained increase in the well-being of a community), that does not decrease the likelihood of future development. Sustainable development must allow for the continued positive development of future generations.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2016 the MDGs were replaced with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The set of 17 "Global Goals" have 169 targets between them. It was spearheaded by the United Nations through a deliberative process involving its 193 Member States, as well as global civil society. The SDGs build on the Principles agreed upon under Resolution A/RES/66/288, popularly known as 'The Future We Want'. It is a non-binding document released as a result of Rio+20 Conference held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.



Third World

Third world is commonly used to refer to developing countries in the global south. However, the origin of the term dates to the Cold War and was used to describe the countries not aligned with either NATO or the Communist Bloc.

Three Pillars of Sustainability

The three pillars of sustainability are: economic, environmental and social. All three pillars are considered equally important; if any one pillar is weak it will undermine the other two.

tied aid

Tied aid is foreign aid funds that must be spent in a particular way, dictated by the donor. Sometimes the money must be spent on goods or services from the donor country or in a group of countries selected by the donor.

Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA)

The Trade in Services Agreement is a proposed international trade agreement to liberalize the trade in services including healthcare, banking and transport. It focuses exclusively on services, rather than goods, and the 23 parties include the European Union and the United States.

trade liberalization

Trade liberalization is the process of removing or reducing barriers on the free exchange of goods between states. It involves the removal of tariffs, duties, quotas and other requirements. Trade liberalization is strongly encouraged by the OECD.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

The TPP is a massive proposed trade agreement between Pacific rim countries. It is being renegotiated after the withdrawal of the United States. The agreement is between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

transfer pricing

Transfer pricing refers to the methods of pricing transactions between entities under common ownership. Transfer pricing can be used by multinational corporations to limit the taxes that they pay on primary resources extracted in developing countries by pricing the goods at a lower rate than that determined by the open market.

Transparency

Transparency implies openness, communication and accountability.

TTIP

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a proposed trade agreement between the European Union and the United States. The aim of the TTIP is to promote trade and multilateral economic growth.

UN Development Programme (UNDP)



The UNDP is the United Nations global development network and seeks to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through sustainable development. The UNDP provides training, advice and grants to countries. The UNDP publishes the Human Development Report to measure and analyze development progress and works to help countries achieve the SDGs.

USAID

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the United States government agency primarily responsible for the administration of civilian foreign aid. USAID programs are authorized by the US Congress. Programs through USAID tend to pursue two goals: the reduction of global poverty and the furthering of American interests abroad.

Washington Consensus

The Washington Consensus, a term coined by John Williamson in 1989, refers to a set of approximately 10 neoliberal policy recommendations supported by the United States and the international financial institutions. The suggested reforms included trade liberalization, privatization, protection of private property rights and the liberalization of foreign direct investment (FDI).

World Bank

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans, advice and research to developing countries. It is made up of five institutions and has as its mission to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. The World Bank was born out of the Bretton Woods Conference.

World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum is a not-for-profit foundation established and headquartered in Geneva in 1971. It strives to be impartial and is non-partisan and untied to any political or national interests. Best known for its annual meeting in Davos, it draws together business leaders, public figures and members of state governments to discuss issues of global concern including globalization, wealth management, and environmental problems.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The WTO is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade. Its main function is to ensure that trade occurs as freely, smoothly and predictably as possible.

Peace and Conflict: Content and Concepts

amnesty

An official pardon for people who have been convicted of a criminal offense.

appeasement

A foreign policy strategy of making concessions to an aggressor in the hope of modifying its political objectives and, specifically, avoiding war.

brinkmanship

A strategy of escalating confrontation even to the point of risking war (going to the brink), aimed at persuading an opponent to back down.

Chapter 7 (UN Charter)

Sets out the UN Security Council's powers to maintain peace. It allows the Council to "determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and to take military and nonmilitary action to "restore international peace and security".

civil war

An armed conflict between politically organized groups within a state, usually fought either for control of the state or to establish a new state.

conflict

Disagreement and competition over power, ideas, identity, resources or territory.

conventional warfare

A form of warfare that is conducted by regular, uniformed and national military units and uses conventional (not nuclear) military weapons and battlefield tactics.

cultural violence

Aspects of a culture that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence, and may be exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science. Cultural violence makes direct and structural violence look or feel "right", or at least not wrong, according to Johan Galtung.

deterrence

A tactic or strategy designed to prevent aggression by emphasizing the scale of the likely military response (the cost of an attack would be greater than any benefit it may bring).

direct violence

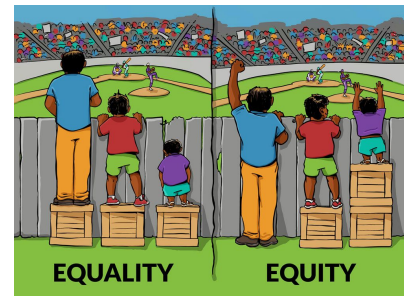
Physical or mental harm brought upon an individual; forms of direct violence include assault, rape, murder, war, and genocide. It is sometimes called *personal* violence because the perpetrators are human beings.

disarmament

The reduction of fighting capacity, either through scaling-down or eliminating arms or, more likely, categories of weapons.

equality

Treating everyone the same. Equality aims to promote fairness, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same help.



equity

Giving everyone what they need to be successful; fairness.

escalation

An intensification of something, such as violence or tension.

first strike

A pre-emptive or surprise attack on an adversary; 'getting one's retaliation in first'.

grievance

A real or imagined wrong or other cause for complaint or protest, especially unfair treatment.

guerrilla war

Literally, 'little war'; an insurgency or people's war, fought by irregular troops using tactics that are suited to the terrain and emphasize mobility and surprise rather than superior firepower.

hegemonic war

War that is fought to establish dominance of the entire world order by restructuring the global balance of power.

insurgency

An armed uprising, involving irregular soldiers, which aims to overthrow the established regime.

interstate war

A war between two or more states.

intervention

Forcible action taken by one state against another state, without the latter's consent.

intrastate war

A war within a state; can be used synonymously with the term civil war.

mediation

A way of resolving disputes between two or more parties with concrete effects. Typically, a third party, the mediator, assists the parties to negotiate a settlement.

militarism

A cultural or ideological phenomenon in which military priorities, ideas and values come to pervade the larger society.

mutually assured destruction (MAD)

A condition in which a nuclear attack by either state would only ensure its own destruction, as both possess an invulnerable second-strike capacity.

nation-building

The constructing or structuring of a national identity using the power of the state.

negative peace

Peace defined as the absence of violence, although the forces that give rise to conflict remain in place.

non-intervention

The principle that states should not interfere in the internal affairs of other states.

non-violence

The use of peaceful means, not force, to bring about political or social change.

nuclear proliferation

The spread of nuclear weapons, either by their acquisition by more states or other actors (horizontal proliferation), or their accumulation by established nuclear states (vertical proliferation).

pacifism

A commitment to peace and a rejection of war or violence in any circumstances.

peace



Freedom from conflict; the presence of tranquility and harmony. Peace can be defined in many ways, but one of the most common is to categorize peace as either positive or negative.

peacebuilding

A process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building, and political as well as economic transformation.

peacekeeping

A technique designed to preserve the peace when fighting has been halted, and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers.

peacemaking

Conflict transformation focused upon establishing equitable power relationships robust enough to forestall future conflict, often including the establishment of means of agreeing on ethical decisions within a community, or among parties, that had previously engaged in inappropriate (i.e. violent) responses to conflict. Peacemaking seeks to achieve full reconciliation among adversaries and new mutual understanding among parties and stakeholders.

positive peace

Peace defined in terms of harmony and wholeness; the absence not just of violence but of the causes of violence.

proxy war

A war instigated by a major power that does not itself become involved.

refugee

A person compelled to leave his or her country because their life, security or freedoms have been threatened.

restorative justice

An approach to justice that personalizes the crime by having the victims and the offenders mediate a restitution agreement to the satisfaction of each, as well as involving the community. This contrasts to more punitive approaches such as retributive justice.

resource war

A war that is fought to gain or retain control of resources which are important to economic development or political power.

retributive justice

A system of criminal justice based on the punishment of offenders rather than on rehabilitation.

security dilemma

A situation in the anarchic area of international relations in which, actions by a state intended to heighten its security, such as increasing its military strength, committing to use weapons or making alliances, can lead other states to respond with similar measures, producing increased tensions that create conflict, even when no side really desires it

state terrorism

Terrorism carried out by government bodies such as the police, military or intelligence agencies.

structural violence

A form of violence that stems from social structures that perpetuate domination, oppression or exploitation, as opposed to 'direct violence' which stems (supposedly) from individual or group motivations.

total war

A war involving all aspects of society, including large-scale conscription, the gearing of the economy to military ends, and the aim of achieving unconditional surrender through the mass destruction of enemy targets, civilian and military.

transformative justice

A strategy for responding to conflicts which takes the principles and practices of restorative justice beyond the criminal justice system and tries to treat an offense as a transformative relational and educational opportunity for victims, offenders and all other members of the affected community.

truth and reconciliation commission

A body tasked with discovering and revealing past wrongdoing by a government (or, depending on the circumstances, non-state actors also), in the hope of resolving conflict left over from the past.

violence

Physical or psychological harm which can be caused either by physical force or by structures within society or government.